



NEWS RELEASE

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New Ad: Congress Is Threatening to Undermine Laws Protecting American Families from Pollution, Toxic Chemicals, Unsafe Food and Other Dangers

Ad features Janette Fennell, who was locked in a car trunk at gunpoint and later fought successfully to make internal trunk releases standard in all cars.

Ads: "But from car safety, to clean air and water, Congress is threatening these lifesaving standards

(WASHINGTON, D.C., August 21, 2017) – Today [Clean Air Moms Action](http://CleanAirMomsAction.org) released new digital ads in Missouri, Indiana, Montana, Florida and Virginia featuring Janette Fennell, founder and president of the nonprofit KidsAndCars.org, who narrowly escaped tragedy when she was abducted and trapped inside the trunk of her own car. Fennell calls on Congress to oppose the Regulatory Accountability Act (RAA) and the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act (REINS) Act, two bills that threaten life-saving consumer protections that keep our air and water clean, our food and workplaces safe and our families healthy.

After narrowly escaping the trunk alive, Fennell turned to advocacy and successfully lobbied the federal government to ensure all cars have a glow-in-the-dark internal trunk release. Thanks to her work, all cars manufactured since 2002 include this trunk release mechanism, saving untold lives: since implementing the federal requirement, there has not been a single fatality in the trunk of a vehicle with a release. However, should the RAA or REINS Act become law, similar consumer safety standards would be at risk, putting untold lives in danger.

"The Toxic Substances Control Act, the Clean Air Act, Consumer Product Safety Act, and other popular consumer safety standards are at risk if the RAA and REINS Act become law," said Gretchen Dahlkemper, Director of Clean Air Moms Action. "These bills would tie federal agencies in knots. Congress must prioritize the health and safety of millions of Americans, rather than the interests of big business, and support life-saving consumer protections."

"Congress must work to protect the commonsense safeguards that keep our families safe," said Janette Fennell, president and founder of KidsAndCars. "The glow-in-the-dark trunk release is just one example that has saved countless lives, a simple two-inch piece of plastic that can prevent tragedy. Yet, Congress is considering legislation that would threaten these types of protections with additional and unnecessary red tape and I urge Congress to vote down this legislation."

WATCH THE AD [HERE](#):

"My husband and I were robbed at gunpoint, and forced into our trunk.

"We were left for dead.

“Finally, in the darkness, I found a cable and it opened the trunk.

“We were so blessed to have escaped.

“Now every trunk has an emergency release inside - saving lives.

“But from car safety, to clean air and water, Congress is threatening these lifesaving standards.

“Tell Congress: Vote no on RAA and the REINS Act.”

Under the guise of “regulatory reform,” the RAA and REINS Acts would undermine critical federal consumer protections by adding mountains of red-tape to an already long process, delaying common-sense safeguards that protect American families. The REINS Act would require Congressional approval of rules, effectively giving either branch of Congress, or powerful lobbying groups, a “pocket veto” on safeguards. The [“Regulatory Accountability Act”](#) would create hurdles to rulemaking similar to the one that kept America from banning [asbestos](#).

The bills would:

- Imperil efforts to protect families from toxic substances like asbestos or lead in water or toxic chemicals in pacifiers or car seats
- Tie federal agencies in knots and add even more bureaucracy, rendering agencies incapable of implementing and enforcing commonsense safety laws that have broad public support.
- Fundamentally weaken protections from unsafe pollution, chemicals, drugs and other dangers – by undermining the Clean Air Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act and a slew of other public health and safety laws.
- The RAA would so radically rewrite the Administrative Procedure Act that its full implications would likely not become fully apparent for years after adoption and would lead to years of litigation.
- The REINS Act would inject more politics and gridlock into the regulatory process by requiring both houses of Congress to approve every major rule within a 70-day window or it wouldn’t go into effect.

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[Clean Air Moms Action](#) is the political action partner of Moms Clean Air Force. As moms, we are building strong, bipartisan support to protect our children from the health impacts of air pollution – including the urgent crisis of our changing climate. By cultivating unlikely political support and mobilizing an army of concerned parents, we work toward keeping toxic chemicals out of our homes and bodies and delivering climate change solutions big and small.