

Removing an Impediment to the Pursuit of Truck Safety

The law can needlessly be an impediment to wider deployment of truck safety technologies and practices.

- Safety monitoring and coaching are often deemed employee-like control. As a result, motor carriers utilizing independent contractors shy away from testing, deploying, and maximizing safety technologies.
- If you see things working from a safety standpoint with employee fleets, doesn't everybody benefit from it being used by the IC fleet?

AAA Foundation says monitoring and coaching is needed to maximize safety benefits.

- AAA Foundation does research on behalf of the motoring public; not just trucks
- Their 2017 study looked at several large truck technologies which they deemed could provide significant societal benefits, including on-board video systems
- The efficacy of these technologies depends on driver monitoring and driver coaching
- For example, AAA Foundation found that video-based onboard safety monitoring could prevent 63,000 crashes, 17,733 injuries, and 293 death each year
- Another study by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute found that two carriers using video systems with feedback and coaching reduced their safety-related events/mile traveled by 37 percent and 52 percent, respectively

The legislation is narrowly targeted to allow safety improvements.

- It does not change a state's test for classifying a worker
- The safe harbor is limited to technologies and practices *intended and primarily used for safety*
- All other commercial aspects of the relationship remain available for consideration according to existing state law

The legislation does not mandate any particular technology or practice.

- The legislation is intended to spur deployment of safety technologies and practices by removing a clear and present obstacle
- It will allow for a greater use and a wider variety of technologies and practices

This legislation can only benefit the driver, the motoring public, and the motor carrier.

- Wider deployment of safety improvements benefits the motoring public sharing the road with trucks
- A safer truck or driver reduces risk exposure for the driver him/herself
- Reduced accident exposure benefits the motor carrier in myriad ways, including more affordable insurance