

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 3, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

The Honorable Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Comptroller General Dodaro:

We write to request that the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) review various aspects of “Move Over” laws, which are designed to protect roadway users from unnecessary and avoidable incidents.

Every day, first responders whose jobs require them to operate alongside busy highways are in danger of being struck by passing vehicles. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, traffic-related incidents continue to be one of the leading causes of death among on-duty law enforcement officers. Since 1997, more than 150 law enforcement officers have been struck by vehicles and killed while they were stopped alongside highways.

“Move Over” laws are designed to protect emergency responders, workers and others who are stopped on the side of the road by requiring motorists to shift lanes and/or slow down; however, States continue to report numerous incidents of drivers failing to move over and crashing into emergency responders and others.

We ask that GAO review the following aspects of “Move Over” laws:

- 1) What is known about the effectiveness of “Move Over” laws;
- 2) What Federal funding and other assistance are available to States to help educate the public about the requirements of “Move Over” laws; and
- 3) What challenges do States face in implementing “Move Over” laws, and what leading practices have States used to successfully implement these laws or otherwise protect law enforcement officers and other individuals from passing vehicles?

This review will help us better understand existing policies and practices related to “Move Over” laws. Please include recommendations for agency or congressional action in your evaluation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress