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Child Passenger Safety Week September 17-23, 2017

(Olathe, KS) September 15, 2017—Every day in America, too many children ride in car seats that have been installed incorrectly, or are riding in the wrong car seats for their ages and sizes. Other children ride while completely unbuckled. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 59 percent of car seats are misused.

Child Passenger Safety Week is a campaign dedicated to helping parents and caregivers make sure their children ride as safely as possible - every trip, every time. Child Passenger Safety Week runs from September 17-23, 2017.

New research shows that more than half of forward-facing car seats are not used properly because of one misunderstood but essential step in installation: attaching the top tether. In fact, in a 2016 study of those who came to car seat checkup events, 64 percent of forward-facing car seats with harnesses were not attached using the tether. But the good news is education works. In 2016, parents and caregivers were shown the importance of using the tether at a Safe Kids car seat checkup event. At a follow-up event six weeks later with the same families, correct tether use increased by 37 percent.

“Many parents don’t know about the tether, and don’t realize that their child is not fully protected. We want to fix that.” said Katie Schatte, Safe Kids Johnson County coordinator. Families can also get expert help online with the Ultimate Car Seat Guide (available in both English and Spanish) and locate an event in their community at SafeKids.org .”

Following is a list of area events:

Sept 19 Child Passenger Safety Renewal Class at the Leawood Police Department

Sept 20-22 Child Passenger Safety Technician Training Class at the Leawood Police Department

Sept 23 Community Buckle Up event at McCarthy Chevrolet, 675 N Rawhide, Olathe, KS 66061, 9 am to 12:30 pm. (National Seat Check Saturday)

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