



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

The Honourable Joe Volpe, P.C., M.P.
Eglinton-Lawrence

News Release

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JOE VOLPE INTRODUCES PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL TO MAKE CANADIAN CARS AND ROADS SAFER

Ottawa – Today, the Honourable Joe Volpe introduced a Private Member's Bill entitled, *An Act to amend the Motor Vehicle Safety Act (Electronic Stability Control)*. Electronic Stability Control (ESC) is a safety technology designed to enhance a vehicle's stability and prevent loss of control and roll-overs in all driving conditions.

“We need to be serious about applying modern technology to safety issues on our roads” said Joe Volpe. “If the technology is out there, we should be using it.”

Traffic collisions are a leading cause of premature death and long term disability. According to the latest available comprehensive Government of Canada study (2001), there were 2,778 deaths due to motor vehicle traffic collisions and 24,403 hospital admissions for traffic-related injuries. The application of ESC to Canadian vehicles would reduce these alarming personal injury statistics and bring life saving benefits.

Moreover, that same 2001 study by the Canadian Departments of Health and Transport, also weighed the healthcare costs, property losses and other factors related to traffic accidents and found the economic cost of traffic collisions to Canada to be \$25 billion annually.

“ESC is a step in the right direction to improving car and road safety and protecting Canadians,” said Joe Volpe.

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This Bill, if passed by Parliament, would amend the *Motor Vehicle Safety Act* to provide that every vehicle weighing less than 4,536 kilograms sold in Canada, or imported into Canada, is to be equipped with an ESC system within six years after the Act receives royal assent.

Other Countries, such as Austria, England, Germany and the US have looked into ESC as a safety measure. For example, according to a 2007 US Report by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, ESC reduces fatal crashes involving a single car by 36% and fatal single-vehicle rollover crashes are reduced by 70% for cars and 88% for other vehicles. The US will make ESC mandatory on light vehicles by 2012.

For more information contact:

Office of the Hon. Joe Volpe, P.C., M.P.
Eglinton-Lawrence
(613) 992-6361