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August 17th 2011

To the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Dear Sir/Madam:

My name is [redacted] I am 44 years old and I have been a citizen of the United States for over 25 years. I have been driving in the states for over 22 years and have always maintained a good driving record.

My husband bought a 2005 Lexus model Ls430 and I have been driving it for three years now. Unfortunately, on January 8th, 2011, I experienced the most traumatic and life-threatening car incident of my entire life while driving my Ls430.

On the day of my incident, a Saturday around noon, I was driving along a very familiar road near my neighborhood. I have been driving along that same road every day of my life for the past 5 years, multiple times per day. I clearly acknowledge that the speed limit is 30 mph and transitions to 25 miles an hour on that road. On the day of the incident, I had no intention of speeding. That afternoon, I was driving my 14-year-old son to Chinese language school and I had even left an hour early before his class to avoid having to rush on the road (the class begins at 1:30 pm). As I was driving along the road, two miles from my house, the car suddenly and drastically began to accelerate. I remember vividly pressing the break pedal multiple times but it failed to decelerate the car at all. Afraid as I was, I ceased to step on the gas or the brake pedal. The car continued accelerating and kept gaining momentum. At that point, I tried to avoid hitting the cars in front and incoming cars from the other direction of the road. I drove for about a half mile on and off the right side curbside (the left side of the road is the edge of a steep hill with only minimal fencing guard), clipping mailboxes and riding onto lawns along the way. I did not want to continue driving on the main road because within a mile was a busy intersection, and following the intersection was the freeway. In panic, and not being able to stop, decelerate, or control the car, I removed the seatbelt in an attempt to evacuate the car. The car door, however, would not open. I was terrified, and the car only continued to accelerate; I had no choice but to turn a right, which resulted in a head on collision with a tree. I then lost entire consciousness.

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When I woke up in Oregon Health Sciences University's Intensive Care Unit's patient care room the next day, and upon waking up, was informed that my son was also receiving care in Oregon Health Sciences University's Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

As I have mentioned, I am very familiar with that road. I drive along that road multiple times a day and have driven on it for the past 5 years. I am a mother of three children, and one of them was in the back seat. As my kids growing up, Driving a lot to my kids to school and outside activities (Language, Sport, Swimming lesson, Piano lesson, Brain child lesson) is my major task. I would NEVER allow myself to speed with my child in the backseat, let alone drive 70 miles an hour on a neighborhood street (I was informed by the police report later on the speed was 70 mph when it hit the tree). It was my day off from work and I was in no rush to get to my destination. The car had completely lost control and was self-accelerating for no apparent reason.

The crash severed my left arm, and had left it hanging by skin. I spent over 9 hours in the operating room having my left arm and its nerves reattached. Apart from severing my left arm, also I had two big areas of skin severing injury that had to undergo skin graft surgery. I also injured my right arm and my neck nerves as well; the accident had also curved my neck bone, and my lungs and veins were also damaged. I had to stay at OHSU for 3 weeks, until February 2nd, 2011. I was then transferred to the Vibra Special Care Hospital for another two weeks until February 16th, 2011. I went back to OHSU to have two skin graft surgeries performed on my left arm on February 16th, 2011 and stayed in the hospital until February 18th, 2011. I was transferred once again, to a Gresham rehab nursing home for another 3 weeks until March 13th, 2011. On March 13th, 2011, after staying for two months and five days in hospitals and skill nursing homes, I was allowed to return home for recovery with a informal home provider from my Long term insurance policy.

During these three months, I went through a tremendous amount of pain and I was forced to stay in bed-rest for a majority of the time. Not only did I have to suffer, but my family suffered as well in their worries about me. My husband had to neglect his Chinese grocery business at the busiest time of the year (Chinese New Years) in order to provide care for me. Upon returning home, I still experienced pain and helplessness. I was not able to raise myself from bed for three weeks and could not perform simple tasks around the house. As of now, I am

in progressive recovery by means of physical therapy, acupunctural healing, chiropractic care and exercise. However, my left arm still lacks feeling and remains immobile. But it has been 8 months from the surgery already, the doctor said my left arm might not recovery and not that much to do but wait.

From this car incident, I have acquired close to $400,000 in hospital and facility bills, even though most of which is covered by medical insurance. But my insurance covers only $1500.00 per year for rehab, and I need way more than then that (I need physical therapy 8 times a month and each visit costs $280.00). I have three children with two attending college (one at the University of California, Los Angeles, and one at the University of Washington, Seattle), and one in high school. Under these already tough financial circumstances, I have lost my ability to work. I have even lost the ability to do simple chores around the house. This car incident has impaired my abilities as a wife, mom and daughter. I continue to stress about my situation with each passing day. I have lost confidence in my capabilities and even now I lost confidence in my marriage. Since I am unable to work, even hygiene my -self without help. I stay home every day and can only wonder how difficult life from this point on only having one functioning limb.

I don't have money to hire an attorney nor do I have the money to hire an engineer to diagnose the vehicle's mechanical problems. So I have decided to send this letter to NHSA. I want to propose the contribution of my wrecked vehicle to NHSA for research, and the request to have an original copy of the report for my record.

If you wish to investigate further, I have enclosed photos of the crash and police report, pictures of the accident. Please put this into careful consideration and thank you for your time.

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To: Nation Highway Trafic Safety
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SOME PHOTOGRAPHS

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