

Safe Vehicle Access for Survivors Act of 2025

Representatives Dingell (MI-06) and Crenshaw (TX-02)

Perpetrators of domestic violence often utilize methods of surveillance and control against their partners, and these methods increase as technology continues to advance. Internet-connected features in newer vehicles collect significant amounts of data, which can offer convenience for drivers, but also allow abusers to harass and intimidate their partners. The Safe Vehicle Access for Survivors Act aims to protect individuals who are survivors of abuse, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking, by-

Enabling Survivors to Terminate Abuser's Access:

- **Consumer Notices:** Providers must make information on how to make a request publicly available.
- **Action on Requests:** After submitting a termination request, providers must act within two business days to terminate or disable access to connected vehicle services for abusers identified in a survivor's request.
- **Account Data Access:** Abusers are denied access to data generated after their access is terminated.
- **Fee and Penalty Prohibition:** No fees, penalties, or additional requirements can be imposed on a survivor for fulfilling the request.
- **Notification:** Survivors are informed before any formal notice is given to the abuser, with a minimum three-day notice period.
- **Technical Infeasibility:** Providers must notify survivors if they cannot fulfill a request due to operational or technical reasons and provide potential remedies.

Taking Steps to Bolster Protection in the Request Process:

- **Confidentiality:** Providers must treat the survivor's information as confidential and securely dispose of it within 90 days, unless longer retention is necessary to verify request fulfillment.
- **Manner of Contact:** Covered providers must allow survivors to choose the manner in which they communicate with the survivor, in the event that there are certain methods of communication that are more secure for the survivor.

Additional Provisions:

- **Liability Protection:** Providers and their agents are protected from liability for actions taken in compliance with the Act.
- **Effective Date:** Providers must comply within six months of enactment.
- **Preemption of State Laws:** The Act preempts any conflicting state or local laws.
- **Rulemaking:** The Federal Communications Commission, in consultation with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, must issue rulemaking to prescribe how covered providers comply with this law, with specific considerations relating to survivor safety including the heightened risk of retaliation, ability to remove sensitive data, other methods an abuser may use to access survivor's data, and how to empower a survivor to enhance the safety and privacy of their experience with the connected vehicle service.

Overall, this bill establishes a process for survivors to request the termination or disabling of connected vehicle services that their abusers could misuse, ensuring the survivors' safety and confidentiality without imposing additional burdens on them. This process can allow a survivor to safely maintain access to a vehicle, which can be a critical tool to achieve safety and independence.