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NEWS RELEASE

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SENATE APPROVES BILL REQUIRING SAFETY MIRRORS ON SOME DELIVERY TRUCKS *Eugene Child's Death Spurs Safety Legislation*

SALEM – Responding to the tragic death of a Eugene child killed by a delivery van, the state Senate Tuesday approved a bill that would require certain commercial vehicles to be equipped with mirrors that allow drivers to see objects in front of the vehicle.

The bill is sponsored by Senators Floyd Prozanski and Vicki Walker at the request of Christopher and Brandi Lyons, the child's parents. Kennedy Lyons was seven years old when she was killed when a United Parcel Service driver could not see her in front of the truck.

"These particular vehicles can be dangerous. The primary investigator for the Eugene Police Department testified that these trucks have a sizable blind spot of 44 or 45 inches where a child could be literally in front of the vehicle and the person in the truck would not see them," Prozanski said.

The bill requires delivery vehicles under 26,000 pounds to be equipped with "forward visibility enhancement devices" – mirrors that allow the driver to see objects immediately in front of the vehicle.

"It's a very small cost for industry to make the vehicles safer and protect children," said Prozanski.

Under federal law school buses are required to have forward visibility enhancement devices, and the U.S. Postal Service equips its vehicles with similar mirrors.

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Sen. Prozanski represents southern Lane County and northern Douglas County, including the communities of Blue River, Cottage Grove, Drain, Elkton, Eugene, Glide, Lowell, McKenzie Bridge, Oakland, Oakridge, Sutherlin, Tiller, Westfir, Yoncalla and Vida.