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NHTSA's Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) Standards are an Important Step to Protect Health

[Washington, D.C.] - On June 7th, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) finalized the new <u>Corporate Average Fuel Economy</u> (<u>CAFE</u>) standards that affect vehicles sold in MY 2027 and beyond. NHTSA's CAFE standards regulate how far vehicles must travel on a gallon of fuel, with these new standards set to result in reduced consumption of about 70 billion gallons of gasoline (equivalent) through 2050 and prevent more than 710 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions by 2050.

In response to the updated standards, the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments Executive Director Katie Huffling, DNP, RN, CNM, FAAN issued the following statement:

"The Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments applauds the NHTSA for finalizing CAFE standards that will reduce fossil fuel use and drive down vehicle pollution thereby protecting public health. Coupled with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recent federal vehicle emission standards, NHTSA's updated fuel economy standards put vehicles in the United States on track to become more efficient and less polluting. The standards also deliver on the Biden administration's stated commitment to environmental justice as improvements in vehicle fuel economy also help address key transportation-related impacts. Ultimately, the final rule will contribute to a cleaner, more efficient future transportation sector."

"Nurses know that more fuel efficient vehicles mean less polluting vehicles. Pollution reduction will lead to improvements in air quality, improvements in respiratory and cardiac health, and ultimately save lives. Nurses thank the Biden Administration for another important step in reducing pollution from the transportation sector."

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The Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments is the only national nursing organization focused solely on the intersection of health and the environment. The mission of the Alliance is to promote healthy people and healthy environments by educating and leading the nursing profession, advancing research, incorporating evidence-based practice, and influencing policy.

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