

HR 851

DOT Victim and Survivor Advocate Act

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Jan 31, 2025

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit. (Feb 1, 2025)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/851>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]

Party: Democratic • **State:** TN • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 1, 2025

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 S 415	Related bill	Feb 5, 2025: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

DOT Victim and Survivor Advocate Act

This bill directs the Department of Transportation (DOT) to establish the position of National Roadway Safety Advocate to work directly with victims and survivors of road crashes and their families (i.e., stakeholders).

Specifically, the purposes of the advocate are to (1) document and communicate recommendations from stakeholders to DOT on the needs, objectives, plans, approaches, content, and accomplishments of DOT's roadway safety programs and activities; and (2) serve as a resource and point of contact for stakeholders on relevant roadway safety issues.

The bill specifies that the advocate position must be filled by a career appointment.

The bill prohibits the advocate from taking certain actions, such as

- creating or authorizing DOT policies, priorities, or activities; or
- disclosing or discussing any enforcement matters that are under investigation or in litigation.

The advocate must submit an annual report to DOT highlighting systemic issues relating to roadway safety based on information provided by stakeholders. The report must include recommendations on how to remedy the issues.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 1, 2025:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.
- **Jan 31, 2025:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 31, 2025:** Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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