

**EPA/NHTSA Hearing on the Rollback of Fuel Efficiency Standards and CO2 Tailpipe Emissions For
Passenger Vehicles and Light Trucks**
September 26, 2018

My name is Dr. Ned Ketyer. I am a pediatrician with Pittsburgh-based Pediatric Alliance. I have come to speak today as a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Environmental Health, a consultant with SW Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project, a board member of Physicians for Social Responsibility — Pennsylvania, a Climate Reality Project Leader, and as a member of the Breathe Collaborative here in Pittsburgh.

Welcome to Pittsburgh!

There is no controversy or doubt about how the components of air pollution from cars, SUVs, and trucks impact health. We have known for decades that:

1. Carbon monoxide is toxic to every human.
2. Carbon dioxide is the principle greenhouse gas responsible for global warming and climate change.
3. Particulate matter tiny enough to enter the deepest areas of the lungs causes lung damage, heart disease, and cancer. It complicates pregnancies, impairs infant and child brain development, makes children with asthma sicker and adults with heart disease more likely to have heart attacks.
4. Volatile organic compounds like benzene, expelled from tailpipes when gasoline is consumed in cars and trucks, causes leukemia in children.
5. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons cause cancer and are associated with physical and cognitive delays in young children by acting as endocrine disrupting chemicals.
6. Nitrogen dioxide is a major component of ground level ozone (smog) which damages the growth of the lungs of infants and children and diminishes the lung function of every human, regardless of age or health status.

More air pollution means more birth defects, more developmental and learning problems, more suffering for those with lung diseases, heart disease, and mental illness, more adult-onset dementia, more cancer, and more premature deaths.

And more carbon dioxide emissions mean more global warming. Scientists have studied, and now we can all see for ourselves, the impacts of global warming on our land, our oceans, our societies, and our health. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by strengthening emissions and fuel efficiency standards in cars, SUVs, and light trucks is essential in order to address this climate emergency.

Weakening emissions and fuel efficiency standards is indefensible. It's irresponsible. It's climate change denialism on full display. Like so many other environmental protections that have already been rolled back and repealed, this proposal should keep everyone in this room who cares about the health and safety of their children and grandchildren awake at night.