

## Enhance Auto Safety

Automotive safety is the primary mission of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In recent decades, however, NHTSA's mission has increasingly become distorted by political correctness. For example, the agency has focused on the alleged safety hazards of SUVs while paying little attention to the safety risks of subcompact cars. Moreover, NHTSA has moved to mandate safety features that are already becoming widely adopted due to consumer demand, such as electronic stability control systems. Such mandates end up limiting design flexibility and constitute little more than an exercise of regulatory muscle.

Finally, while NHTSA has moved to reduce the deadly effects of its fuel economy standards through its Reformed CAFE program (corporate average fuel economy), CAFE's lethal effects will likely accelerate due to Congress' enactment of far more stringent fuel economy levels in the future. At this point, the single most important task that NHTSA could undertake regarding CAFE is to come up with a comprehensive estimate of the deaths attributable to this program, both on a yearly basis and over its 30-year history.

*Sam Kazman*