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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Delaware Highway Safety Officials Urge Parents to Have Car Seats Inspected for Safety in Wake of *Consumer Reports* Retraction of Infant Car Seat Test Report

Dover – Delaware Office of Highway Safety officials are encouraging parents to have their child car seats inspected for safe installation practices, even as *Consumer Reports* magazine issues a recall of its recent infant car seat test report which said that 10 infant car seats it tested in simulated car crashes “failed disastrously.”

According to a statement issued by Consumer Reports on Thursday, “We withdrew the report immediately upon discovering a substantive issue that may have affected the original test results. The issue came to light based on new information received Tuesday night and Wednesday morning from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) concerning the speed at which our side-impact tests were conducted.”

NHTSA Administrator Nicole Nason said in a written statement that a review of *CR*’s testing procedures showed that the side impact tests were conducted in a way that simulated a crash at 70 mph... nearly twice as fast as the group claimed.

“I was troubled by the report because it frightened parents and could have discouraged them from using car seats. It is absolutely essential for every parent to understand that the safest place in an automobile for an infant is in a car seat.”

Delaware OHS officials encourage parents to make an appointment with one of its trained and certified Fitting Station Coordinators to make sure their child’s seat is properly and safely installed. OHS operates three child safety seat Fitting Stations, one in each county. Fitting Stations Coordinators work one-on-one with parents to assess if a child safety seat has

been installed according to manufacturer's instructions. They will then check the seats for recalls and assist parents in properly re-installing the seats.

To make an appointment with an OHS Fitting Station Coordinator call (302) 434-3234 in New Castle County, (302) 744-2749 in Kent County, and (302) 233-1083 in Sussex County. A complete list of statewide locations to have your child's car seats inspected can be found on the OHS website at www.state.de.us/highway . Just click below the picture of a child in an infant seat. OHS Fitting Station hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., and Wednesdays 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.

To read complete statements by both NHTSA Administrator Nason and *Consumer Reports* as well as view online crash test video, visit NHTSA's website at www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

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