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Liz Pérez Appointed to National Child Passenger Safety Board *Phoenix Children's Senior Injury Prevention Specialist Will Serve as CPS Advocate*

ITASCA, IL – The National Child Passenger Safety Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Liz Pérez to the Board. She will serve the Board as a Child Passenger Safety Advocate, representing at-risk and underserved populations.

Pérez is a senior injury prevention specialist at Phoenix Children's, one of the fastest-growing pediatric healthcare systems in the country. She is responsible for the planning, coordination and implementation of child passenger safety efforts that meet the needs of individuals, organizations and community groups. Her work focuses on reducing motor vehicle injuries to children in Arizona. She accomplishes this by providing parents and caregivers with:

- Car seat assistance through a distribution program
- Education on the proper use and installation of car seats

Pérez is a Child Passenger Safety Technician and Instructor. She also is certified to teach Safe Travel for All Children, an enrichment course for Technicians interested in learning more about special needs transportation. She replaces Kellie O'Riordan, who departs after serving the Board as a member of both the Community Engagement and Membership committees from 2020-2023.

"Liz is uniquely positioned to join our team," National Child Passenger Safety Board Chair Jennifer Pelky said. "She has experience working with patients in the hospital setting. She also has proven adept at building partnerships with community organizations that link families to resources. We're excited to have her. At the same time, we wish Kellie all the best moving forward." Pérez's interest in child passenger safety first was born out of her love for her son, Marcos. She tells her personal story to explain the pride she takes in her work.

"As a single teen mother, I experienced many hardships and was still growing up myself," Pérez said. "Looking back, I now see I didn't have a clue on what I was doing when I placed my son in his car seat. Many at-risk families just like mine are of low income and live in minority neighborhoods. They need an advocate to give them the tools and resources to keep their children safe. I've made it my goal to be that voice."

During her time on the Board, she hopes to carve a niche:

- Assisting with Spanish translation of the National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program
- Creating supportive resources for CPS Instructors with students who use English as a second language

Pérez graduated from Arizona State University with a bachelor's degree in social work. She lives with her son in Phoenix and is an active member at her church. When she is not at work, Liz enjoys singing, attending her nieces' and nephews' soccer games and spending time with her family. She also roots for her favorite basketball team, the Phoenix Suns.

About the National Child Passenger Safety Board

The National Child Passenger Safety Board's mission is to save lives and prevent injuries by promoting child passenger safety through education, mentorship, engagement and innovation. The Board's work is managed by the National Safety Council. For more information about child passenger safety or the National CPS Board, please visit the Board's website at <u>www.cpsboard.org</u>