## Compensation at the Crossroads Autonomous Vehicles & Alternative Victim Compensation Schemes



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#### Federal Agency Investigates Tesla Crash; Driver Says Car Was On Autopilot

May 16, 2018 · 8:30 PM ET

VANESSA ROMO



**CAUSED ITS FIRST CRASH** 

#### Tesla driver killed while using autopilot was watching Harry Potter, witness says

Driver in first known fatal self-driving car crash was also driving so fast that 'he went so fast through my trailer I didn't see him', the truck driver involved said





#### AUTO TECH

# Uber's fatal self-driving crash reportedly caused by software

The software that's supposed to detect objects in the road was tuned down, which caused it to ignore a pedestrian walking across a dark Arizona road, according to The Information.

BY ABRAR AL-HEETI, DARA KERR / MAY 7, 2018 11:29 AM PDT

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1. How autonomous vehicle crash cases are handled is a critical issue for both manufacturers and consumers.

2. The U.S. tort system is currently ill-prepared to handle such cases.

3. A victim compensation fund offers a useful alternative.

#### Advantages

Well-established
Well-known/Understood (Kind of)
Products Liability Jurisprudence

### **Disadvantages**

Expensive & Time-Consuming
Unpredictable
Lack of AI Precedent







## The Vaccine Injury Compensation Program



## Quasi-Judicial VCFs

- Administered by a court or federal agency
- Funded by excise taxes or fines
- No-fault and non-adversarial
- Awards made pursuant to published tables or formulas





# Where is the Incentive to Improve?



## How Will We Fund the Fund?



# Can't We Just Rely on Private Insurance?

