ADVOCATES FOR HIGHWAY & AUTO SAFETY

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**
**Speed Limiters for Repeat Offenders (SB 4045/AB 2299)**
**March 6, 2025**

Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (Advocates), an alliance of consumer, safety, medical, public health and law enforcement groups and insurance companies working together to pass highway and auto safety laws that prevent crashes, save lives, reduce injuries, and contain costs, supports enactment of Senate Bill (SB) 4045/Assembly Bill (AB) 2299 to require intelligent speed assistance (ISA) devices for use by repeat offenders to curb this deadly behavior and improve traffic safety. This safety upgrade is critical and timely.

Speeding is a major contributor to crashes in New York and disproportionately affects the Empire State. While speeding is a factor in 29[i] percent of fatal crashes nationally, New York exceeds that average, experiencing 34 percent of these types of crashes.[ii] In 2022, of the 1,175 traffic fatalities in the state, 402 were speeding related.[iii] In addition to being tragic, the preventable deaths resulting from speeding are costly. New York incurred nearly $24 billion in economic harm from preventable traffic crashes, which is equivalent to a $1,214 per resident "crash tax" and well above the national average of $1,035 according to a 2019 analysis.[iv] When updated for inflation alone, in 2025 costs would equate to $29.8 billion and $1,532 respectively.[v]

ISA is technology that can identify the speed limit in real time and work to limit the speed of vehicles if the vehicle is exceeding the specified threshold which in this bill's case is 5 miles per hour (mph) above the speed limit. A recent study on an ISA pilot program in New York City that involved 500 city fleet vehicles and over 2.9 million miles of driving showed ISA produced a 64 percent reduction in overall speeding and an 82 percent decrease on high-speed roads.[vi] Due to the program's success, it is now being expanded to 2,100 vehicles.[vii]

This technology is urgently needed because excess speed contributes to both the frequency and severity of motor vehicle crashes and proves especially dangerous for vulnerable road users (VRU) such as pedestrians, bicyclists and roadside first responders who lack the protective structure of a vehicle. Small increases in speed cause serious declines in safety. The average risk of death for a pedestrian is 10 percent at an impact speed of 23 mph, 25 percent at 32 mph, and 50 percent at 42 mph.[viii] Vehicle occupants suffer its impacts as well, crash tests showed that modest five to 10 mile-per-hour (mph) increases in speed can have a severe impact on a driver's risk of injury or death.[ix]

In the U.S. speeding-related crashes cause $46.4 billion in economic costs and $225 billion in comprehensive costs in 2019 dollars.[x] These costs account for 14 percent of all economic costs and 16 percent of all societal harm (measured as comprehensive costs) from motor vehicle crashes.[xi] If these costs were updated for inflation alone, in 2025 they would equate to $58.6 billion in economic costs and $284 billion in comprehensive costs.[xii]

SB 4045/AB 2299 will increase safety and better protect all New York road users while curbing related costs. We urge you to advance and enact the measure in 2025 to save lives.

Sincerely,

Catherine Chase, President

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[i] NHTSA. (2024). Overview of Motor Vehicle Crashes in 2022. U.S. Department of Transportation, available at https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813560.

[ii] State Traffic Safety Information for New York (2022), NHTSA, available at https://cdan.dot.gov/STSI/stsi.htm.

[iii] Ibid.

[iv] The Economic and Societal Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2019, NHTSA, Feb. 2023, DOT HS 813 403, available at https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813403.

[v] CPI Inflation Calculator, BLS, Jan. 2019 to Jan. 2025, available at https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl.

[vi] New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services. (2024, October 30). DCAS & U.S. DOT Volpe Announce Municipal Speeding Reduction of 64% in New Report on Intelligent Speed Assistance [Press release] available here.

[vii] Ibid.

[viii] Impact Speed and a Pedestrian's Risk of Severe Injury or Death, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, Sep. 2011., available at https://aaafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2011PedestrianRiskVsSpeedReport.pdf.

[ix] Impact of Speeds on Drivers and Vehicles – Results from Crash Tests, AAA Foundation for Safety, Humanetics, and IIHS, Jan. 2021, available at https://www.iihs.org/api/datastoredocument/bibliography/2218.

[x] The Economic and Societal Impact Of Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2019, NHTSA, Feb. 2023, DOT HS 813 403; available at https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813403.

[xi] Ibid.

[xii] CPI Inflation Calculator, BLS, Jan. 2019 to Jan. 2025, available at https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl.