

May 2, 2025

**Governor Bob Ferguson**

416 Sid Snyder Ave SW #220  
Olympia, WA 98501

**Dear Governor Ferguson:**

On behalf of the organizations listed below, we applaud the Washington State Legislature's efforts to address the issue of speeding by introducing **House Bill 1596**, sponsored by Representative Mari Leavitt. This important and timely legislation establishes an Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA) Program, offering a safe driving alternative for individuals whose licenses would otherwise be suspended. We respectfully request that you sign the bill into law as soon as possible.

Driving in Washington state has become increasingly dangerous. Over 30% of fatalities on Washington roads involved speeding drivers. Not only are these avoidable deaths tragic, but the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that in 2019 alone, the economic cost of speed-related crashes across the United States was \$58.6 billion (January 2025).

Current statute requires license suspension for reckless driving or repeated moving violations in a single year, aiming to enhance road safety but often failing. The sudden loss of transportation can cause job loss or hardship for drivers responsible for dependents. Moreover, the system is ineffective, as 75% of offenders continue driving with a suspended license.

HB 1596 will allow drivers convicted of reckless driving, or three or more moving violations, at least one of which is excessive speed, to install and use technology that limits a motor vehicle's speed based on the applicable speed limits, in lieu of license suspension. This provides individuals an opportunity to integrate back into their routines and maintain their responsibilities, while ensuring others on the road are safe from dangerous driving behavior.

We respectfully request that you sign HB 1596 into law to ensure that Washington takes a measurable step forward to save lives by preventing speed-related traffic fatalities and changing driver behavior.

Respectfully submitted,



Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Amy Freedheim  
King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office  
Chair Felony Traffic Unit



ADVOCATES FOR HIGHWAY & AUTO SAFETY

