



ADVOCATES
FOR HIGHWAY
& AUTO SAFETY

January 20, 2026

The Honorable Leo Biasiucci, Chair
The Honorable Teresa Martinez, Vice Chair
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Chair Biasiucci and Vice Chair Martinez:

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, urges you to oppose House Bill (HB) 2059. This legislation will create “derestricted zones,” initially via a pilot program, for non-commercial vehicles under which there is no daytime speed limit and a nighttime speed limit of 80 miles per hour (mph) on specified highway segments, up from 75 mph, endangering state residents and visitors. HB 2059 will make Arizona the only state to have highway segments without a maximum speed limit.¹

In 2024, there were an overall estimated 1,250² traffic fatalities in Arizona according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), which is a 39 percent increase since 2015.³ Speeding is major factor leading to traffic fatalities, contributing to 34 percent (417) of traffic fatalities in the state in 2024, and speeding related fatalities in Arizona increased 39 percent from 2015 to 2024.⁴ Excess speed contributes to both the frequency and severity of motor vehicle crashes and proves especially dangerous for vulnerable road users such as motorcycle riders, work zone workers and roadside first responders who lack the protective structure of a vehicle. The data shows Arizona needs less speeding, not more people traveling at high speeds.

Speeding reduces a driver’s ability to react to emergencies created by driver inattention, unsafe maneuvers of other vehicles, roadway hazards, vehicle issues (such as tire blowouts) or hazardous weather conditions. Higher speeds will result in more preventable fatalities as well as serious and expensive injuries. Traffic crashes are not only devastating to individuals and families, but they are also costly. In 2019, the estimated cost of traffic crashes in Arizona surpassed \$5.9 billion, effectively imposing a \$817 “crash tax” on all Arizona residents.⁵ When updated for inflation alone, in 2025, costs would equate to \$7.5 billion.⁶

Research and statistics consistently and convincingly show speeding is a major safety problem and raising speed limits increases traffic fatalities. Even seemingly modest speed limit changes can have huge impacts on overall traffic safety. Crash tests conducted in 2019 showed that five to 10 mph increases in speed can have a severe impact on a driver’s risk of injury or even death.⁷ According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), “Raising speed limits leads to more deaths. People often drive faster than the speed limit, and if the limit is raised, they will go faster still. Research shows that when speed limits are raised, speeds go up, as do fatal crashes.”⁸ A study found that from 1993-2017, a five mph increase in state speed limits led to 37,000 more traffic deaths.⁹ Moreover, speed limit increases do not reduce travel times as an analysis by the American Automobile Association (AAA) found.¹⁰

Advancing HB 2059 will cause more death and destruction on Arizona roads. We urge you to reject this legislation and prioritize the safety of Arizona families.

Sincerely,

Catherine Chase, President



cc: House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure members

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- ¹ Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, maximum speed limits, available <https://www.iihs.org/research-areas/speed/speed-limit-laws>.
 - ² Traffic Safety Facts: Crash Stats, Early Estimate of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities in 2024, NHTSA, April 2025, DOT HS 813 710, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813710>.
 - ³ State Traffic Safety Information for Arizona, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/stsi.htm>.
 - ⁴ Arizona Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths 2024, ADOT, Jul. 2025, available at <https://azdot.gov/sites/default/files/2025-07/2024-Crash-Facts.pdf>; Arizona Motor Vehicle Crash Facts 2015, ADOT, June 2016, available at <https://azdot.gov/sites/default/files/2018/10/2015-crash-facts.pdf>.
 - ⁵ The Economic and Societal Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2019 (Revised), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), DOT HS 813 403, February 2023, available at: <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813403>.
 - ⁶ CPI Inflation Calculator, BLS, Jan. 2019 to Jan. 2025, available at <https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl>.
 - ⁷ 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/datastore/document/bibliography/2218>.
 - ⁸ “Speed.” Topic Overview. IIHS, available [here](#).
 - ⁹ Farmer, Charles M., The effects of higher speed limits on traffic fatalities in the United States, 1993–2017, IIHS, April 2019; available at <https://www.iihs.org/api/datastore/document/bibliography/2188>.
 - ¹⁰ A Multi-site Examination for the Impact of Changes in Posted Speed Limit on Traffic Safety, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, July 2023, available at https://info.oregon.aaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2023_Speed-Limit-Impact_Brief.pdf.