ADVOCATES
FOR HIGHWAY
& AUTO SAFETY

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair
The Honorable Michele Guyton, Vice Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland General Assembly
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Korman and Vice Chair Guyton:

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) 366 to establish an intelligent speed assistance (ISA) pilot program. Use of ISA by repeat offenders guilty of speeding, reckless driving and other specified offenses would be required to drive during license suspension or revocation. Installation of an ISA device would prevent the offender's vehicle from speeding and is an alternative to license suspension which still allows driving for daily tasks such as taking children to school or going to work or medical appointments. This safety upgrade is critical and timely.

In 2024, there were an overall estimated 579[1] traffic fatalities in Maryland, which is an 11 percent increase from 2015 to 2024.[2] Speeding is a major contributor to traffic fatalities as 30 percent of the fatalities in 2023 involved speeding and speeding related fatalities increased 40 percent from 2014 to 2023.[3] The increase in fatalities for vulnerable road users (VRUs) was even greater during the same period with fatalities among pedestrians rising 58 percent and among bicyclists and other cyclists by 200 percent.[4]

In addition, Maryland incurs approximately $5.9 billion in economic harm annually due to motor vehicle crashes according to a 2019 analysis.[5] This is equivalent to a "crash tax" of $977 per resident each year.[6] When updated for inflation alone, in 2026, costs would equate to approximately $7.6 billion.[7] Traffic safety is a serious and costly issue in urgent need of proven solutions.

Active ISA is technology that can identify the speed limit in real time and limit the speed of vehicles exceeding the specified threshold, which in this bill's case is the posted speed limit. A recent study on an ISA pilot program for city fleet vehicles in New York City, which involved 500 vehicles and over 2.9 million miles of driving, showed ISA produced a 64 percent reduction in overall time spent speeding (more than 11 miles per hour [mph] over limit), including an 82 percent reduction in time spent speeding on higher-speed roads (50 mph).[8] Due to the program's success, it is now being expanded to 2,100 vehicles.[9]

ISA technology is urgently needed because excess speed contributes to both the frequency and severity of motor vehicle crashes and proves especially dangerous for VRUs 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.[10] Vehicle occupants suffer its impacts as well, crash tests showed that modest five to 10 mph increases in speed can have a severe impact on a driver's risk of injury or death.[11] VRUs are particularly at risk in Maryland as 28 percent of those killed in traffic crashes in 2023 were a pedestrian, bicyclist or other cyclist compared to the national average of 21 percent.[12]

We urge a favorable report and enactment of SB 366. Last year Virginia and Washington became the first states to enact ISA laws, following the District of Columbia doing so in 2024, and many states have pending ISA legislation. Maryland can become a leader in this emerging safety trend and save lives by enacting SB 366. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter Kurdock, General Counsel

cc: House Environment and Transportation Committee members

[1] 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.

[2] State Traffic Safety Information for Maryland, NHTSA, available at https://cdan.dot.gov/stsi.htm.

[3] State Traffic Safety Information for Maryland, NHTSA, available at https://cdan.dot.gov/STSI/stsi.htm.

[4] State Traffic Safety Information for Maryland, NHTSA, available at https://cdan.dot.gov/STSI/stsi.htm.

[5] 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.

[6] 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.

[7] CPI Inflation Calculator, BLS, Jan. 2019 to Jan. 2026, available at https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl.

[8] 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.

[9] 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.

[10] 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.

[11] 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.

[12] State Traffic Safety Information for Maryland, NHTSA, available at https://cdan.dot.gov/STSI/stsi.htm; Traffic Safety Facts 2023 Data: Summary of Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes, NHTSA, Oct. 2025, DOT HS 813 762, available at https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813762.