



ADVOCATES
FOR HIGHWAY
& AUTO SAFETY

March 4, 2026

The Honorable Peggy Scott, Co-Chair
The Honorable Tina Liebling, Co-Chair
The Honorable Walter Hudson, Co-Vice Chair
The Honorable Leigh Finke, Co-Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary Finance and Civil Law
Minnesota State Legislature
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Co-Chair Scott, Co-Chair Liebling, Co-Vice Chair Hudson and Co-Vice Chair Finke:

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 File (SF) 3691/House File (HF) 3429 to establish an intelligent speed assistance (ISA) program. Use of ISA by individuals convicted of specified or repeat offenses would be required to drive during license suspension. Installation of an ISA device would prevent the offender's vehicle from speeding and is an alternative to license suspension. ISA 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 478¹ traffic fatalities in Minnesota according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), which is a 16 percent increase since 2015.² Speed is a major contributor to crashes in Minnesota. In 2023, 29 percent of traffic fatalities were speeding related.³ In addition to the physical and emotional burden, traffic crashes exact a financial toll. Traffic crashes cause approximately \$3.8 billion of economic damage to Minnesota annually which is equivalent to a "crash tax" of \$674 per resident, according to a 2019 analysis.⁴ When updated for inflation alone, in 2026, costs would equate to over \$4.9 billion.⁵

Active ISA is technology that can identify the speed limit in real time and limit the speed of vehicles exceeding the specified threshold. A recent study on an ISA pilot program in New York City which involved 500 city fleet vehicles and over 2.9 million miles of driving showed ISA produced a 64 percent reduction in overall time spent speeding (more than 11 mph over limit), including an 82 percent reduction in time spent speeding on higher-speed roads (50 mph).⁶ Due to the program's success, it is now being expanded to 2,100 vehicles.⁷

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 (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.⁸ 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.⁹

We strongly urge the passage of SF 3691/HF 3429. 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 this year. Minnesota can become a leader in this emerging safety trend and save lives by enacting ISA. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine Chase, President

- 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 Minnesota, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/stsi.htm>.
- ³ State Traffic Safety Information for Minnesota, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/stsi.htm>.
- ⁴ 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>.
- ⁵ CPI Inflation Calculator, BLS, January 2019 to January 2026 dollars, available [here](#).
- ⁶ 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](#).
- ⁷ 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](#).
- ⁸ 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>.
- ⁹ 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>.