

March 31, 2026

Representative Carol Hagan McEntee
Vice Chair, House Judiciary Committee

Representative Jason Knight
Vice Chair, House Judiciary Committee

Dear Chair Hagan McEntee, Vice Chair Knight, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for your leadership on public safety and justice issues. We write to you today to convey our support for House Bill 8098, sponsored by Representative Julie Casimiro. Speeding is a public safety crisis. It contributed to more than 12,000 deaths nationwide in 2022, nearly one-third of all traffic fatalities. Rhode Island is not immune to this trend, and the consequences are being felt across the state. These bills give lawmakers a proven, targeted tool to stop the most dangerous drivers – a small group responsible for the deadliest crashes, often referred to as “Super Speeders” – and save lives.

Rhode Island faces an acute and growing speeding crisis. In 2023, 45% of all traffic fatalities in the state involved speeding, one of the highest rates in the nation ([Rhode Island DOT Highway Safety Plan](#)), and the state now ranks second nationally for speed-related crashes [according to](#) the National Safety Council. With 71 roadway deaths in 2023, a 38% increase from the previous year (Rhode Island DOT Highway Safety Plan), and research showing pedestrians and cyclists are at greatest risk, particularly in high-speed corridors and urban areas ([RIDOT Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment](#)), these trends underscore the urgent need for targeted, effective interventions.

House Bill 8098 focuses narrowly on the small but high-risk group driving these outcomes: repeat, egregious “Super Speeders.” It does not affect everyday drivers who may occasionally exceed the speed limit. The legislation allows judges to require intelligent speed assistance (ISA) for chronic speed violators facing license suspension. ISA uses location-based technology, such as GPS, to recognize posted speed limits and prevents vehicles from exceeding them. This is a proven tool that stops dangerous behavior before tragedy occurs.

Current enforcement tools are not effectively changing behavior among this population. Fines alone often fail to deter repeat offenders, and license suspension can unintentionally worsen the problem. Research shows that 75% of those with suspended licenses continue to drive, increasing risk for everyone on the road. The bill replaces ineffective measures with meaningful accountability. Under this policy, individuals can continue to meet essential daily needs, such as getting to work, caring for family, and attending medical appointments, but only while driving safely and while following the law.

Nationally, 38 percent of all fatal speeding crashes involved drunk drivers. The linkage between substance-impaired driving behaviors like drunk and drugged driving with speeding is

indisputable. According to NHTSA, alcohol impairment was found to be more common among speeding drivers in fatal traffic crashes than those drivers who were not speeding.

House Bill 8098 represents a measured, data-driven response to a pressing public safety challenge. It protects responsible drivers, equip courts with an effective tool, and prevents harm before it occurs. We urge you to vote “yes” on the bill to advance it out of committee. The safety of Rhode Island residents depends on it.

Sincerely,



cc:

Representative Edith H. Ajello
Representative Jose Batista
Representative David A. Bennett
Representative Justine Caldwell
Representative Julie Casimiro
Representative Arthur J. Corvese
Representative Cherie Cruz
Representative Matthew Dawson
Representative Leonela Felix
Representative Thomas Noret
Representative David Place
Representative Sherry Roberts