



ADVOCATES
FOR HIGHWAY
& AUTO SAFETY

April 3, 2026

The Honorable Emanuel "Chris" Welch, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Robyn Gabel, Majority Leader
The Honorable Kam Buckner, Speaker Pro Tempore
The Honorable Tony M. McCombie, Minority Leader
Illinois House of Representatives
State Capitol, 401 S. Spring Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Speaker Welch, Majority Leader Gabel, Speaker Pro Tempore Buckner and Minority Leader McCombie:

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 House Bill (HB) 4948 to establish an intelligent speed assistance (ISA) program for specified "super speeders." Installation of an ISA device would prevent the offender's vehicle from speeding and is an alternative to license suspension. It 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.

Speed is a major contributor to crashes in Illinois. In 2023, of the 1,241 traffic fatalities in the state, 35 percent were speeding related which exceeds the national average of 29 percent.¹ Speeding related fatalities in Illinois increased 25 percent from 2014 to 2023.² During the same period fatalities among vulnerable road users (VRUs) increased as well with a 62 percent rise in pedestrian fatalities and a 52 percent uptick in bicyclist and other cyclists fatalities.³ In addition to the physical and emotional burden, traffic crashes exact a financial toll. Traffic crashes cause nearly \$14 billion of economic damage to Illinois annually which is equivalent to a "crash tax" of \$1,103 per resident, according to a 2019 analysis.⁴ When updated for inflation alone, in 2026, costs would equate to approximately \$18.1 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 miles per hour [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 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 VRUs comprised nearly one-fifth of Illinois traffic fatalities in 2023.¹⁰

We strongly urge the passage of HB 4948. 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 considered ISA legislation this year. Illinois can become a leader in this emerging safety trend and save lives by enacting HB 4948. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine Chase, President

cc: Deputy Major Leader Rita, Deputy Majority Leader Hernandez, Deputy Republican Leader Hammond and

- ¹ State Traffic Safety Information for Illinois, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/stsi.htm>; Traffic Safety Facts 2023 Data: Speeding, NHTSA, Jun. 2025, DOT HS 813 721, available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813721>.
- ² State Traffic Safety Information for Illinois, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/stsi.htm>.
- ³ State Traffic Safety Information for Illinois, 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>.
- ¹⁰ State Traffic Safety Information for Illinois, NHTSA, available at <https://cdan.dot.gov/STSI/stsi.htm>.