



February 1, 2022

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Dana Stein
Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Barve and Vice Chair Stein,

The National Safety Council encourages you to support HB0264, which would expand the definition of school zone to include nursery schools for the utilization of speed monitoring systems.

NSC is America's leading nonprofit safety advocate and has been for over 100 years. As a mission-based organization, we work to eliminate the leading causes of preventable death and injury, focusing our efforts on the workplace, roadway and impairment. We create a culture of safety to keep people safer in the workplace and beyond so they can live their fullest lives. Our more than 15,000 member companies represent employees at more than 50,000 U.S. worksites. NSC is proud to lead the national Road to Zero Coalition with the goal of eliminating roadway fatalities by 2050.

Automated enforcement technologies are a proven life-saving tool. According to a system analysis completed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), automated enforcement is highly effective in slowing down drivers and saving lives on the roadways.¹ Automated enforcement helps ensure people drive at posted speed limits, which reduces the severity and likelihood of crashes.² It monitors speeding and other risky driving behaviors, allowing law enforcement to focus their limited resources on other community priorities. Automated enforcement, deployed using data to show the most dangerous roadways, can help ensure equitable enforcement.

HB0264 will make nursery school zones safer by ensuring proper speed adherence in these high risk areas. Nine out of 10 pedestrians would *survive* being struck by a vehicle traveling at 20 mph, while 9 out of 10 pedestrians would be *killed* at 40 mph. We should provide the highest level of safety for nursery schools as well as school zones by ensuring vehicles operating around them are driving at posted lower speeds.

¹ https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/812257_systemanalysisase.pdf

² Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Crash Facts & Statistics, 2016:
http://www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA/Safety/Documents/2016_CFB_linked.pdf.

In Maryland, the *SafeZones* Automated Speed Enforcement program is successful example of automated enforcement improving safety. Since its inception in 2010, there has been a 90% decrease in the number of vehicles traveling 12 mph or more above the work zone speed limit.³

Eliminating roadway fatalities cannot be done without massive, near-term gains in highway safety, and we must use every tool at our disposal to save lives, which includes stronger laws around speed enforcement. If you have any questions please contact Tara Leystra at 202-445-3121 or tara.leystra@nsc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorraine Martin".

Lorraine Martin
President and CEO

CC: House Environment and Transportation Committee

³ Maryland *SafeZones*. The Facts about Maryland's *SafeZones* Program, Summer 2019:
https://www.roads.maryland.gov/OC/Maryland_SafeZones_Fact_Sheet_2019_Winter.pdf

