

Roberta DiMezza

From: Martenson, Jennifer <jennifer_martenson@brown.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2024 8:12 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: In support of H 7368, Noise Limits for Motor Vehicles

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To the House Judiciary Committee:

I write in support of House Bill No. 7368, Noise Limits for Motor Vehicles.

Enabling the use of noise cameras is a small step RI can take toward addressing excessive noise from vehicles— a source of harm already recognized in many municipal codes. Tackling noise from vehicles has proven elusive in part because of the difficulty of measuring decibels from moving sources. Noise cameras can help this problem by taking readings from a fixed position. This will enable communities to enforce existing laws, which already recognize the necessity of limiting noise.

Noise pollution is a major public health problem, recognized by many health organizations, including the World Health Organization, National Institute of Health, and American Public Health Association. Noise pollution is linked not only to hearing loss, (which itself increases chances of depression, social isolation, and dementia) but also to cardiovascular disease, stress, and all the problems that come with lack of sleep. Though many dismiss it as merely an "annoyance," it has a profound and negative impact on people's physical and mental health.

Noise is often perceived in terms of a person's right to make noise, but this framing overlooks the impact it has on others. People making excessive noise are actively harming others, and it is important that our government take steps to help people understand the impact of noise, and to hold them accountable.

Please vote Yes on H 7368.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Martenson
Providence