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From: Menton, Christopher <pmenton@rwu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 3:35 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Cc: Liza Burkin; Speakman, June; Rep. Kislak, Rebecca M.; bettybourret@yahoo.com; Barry"
Subject: In support of 2025 -- H 5930 SPEED-ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM ACT

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Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for considering this issue.

As a member of the Rhode Island Bicycle Coalition Board, I was honored to be invited to speak to our state's transportation forum at URI last year. These are the influencers of RI transportation. This is an excerpt of that presentation.

Transportation is dynamic. Transportation infrastructure and means have evolved, and we adjust to these changes. The current deployment of the police for traffic enforcement needs to be reconsidered. Advances in camera technology and data analysis are pushing increased electronic enforcement. Automated Traffic Enforcement algorithms can be refined to prioritize safety and equity as determinant variables.

The National Institute of Justice and other research asserts increased safety with camera enforcement. Further research suggests discontinued use of camera enforcement precipitates an increase in violations and crashes. Camera enforcement is imperfect but is being used nationally and internationally. Camera locations and times of day are based on data analysis. They can enhance safety and equity. Sanctions should start with warnings and graduate to sliding scale means tested fines. The USDOT should develop models and policies for effective, safe, and equitable automated traffic enforcement.

Police should not be forced to confront people in their cars. It is unfair to the public and the police to place them all in potential peril over civil legal issues. Columbia Law School Professor Sarah Seo's book, "Policing on the open road: How cars transformed American freedom," details how traffic enforcement was foisted on the police. This responsibility has evolved into pretextual traffic stops as entree to criminal investigation. The individual and societal ramifications of cars, shaped policing to the point where not enough people want the job.

Public safety is the key. We know lowering the velocity and mass increases safety/survivability. I have a list to increase safety posted on my website under RI Trans Forum.

Respectfully,

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