

Sue R. AnderBois

North Main Street Task Force, Chair Committee on Environment and Resiliency, Chair Committee on City Property, Vice-Chair Committee on Finance, Member Councilor – Ward 3

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Chair Robert Craven Sr. House Judiciary Committee Rhode Island State House 82 Smith Street Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for HB 5930 - School Zone Speed Enforcement Expansion

Dear Chair Craven and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I write in strong support of HB 5930, which extends the range of school-zone speed enforcement systems from one-quarter (½) mile to three-quarters (¾) of a mile. This legislation is a critical step in protecting students, families, and all pedestrians traveling near our schools. As the representative of Providence's 3rd Ward and the chair of the North Main Street Task Force, I have seen firsthand how traffic safety concerns, particularly speeding, impact our neighborhoods. This bill is a direct result of recommendations from the task force, reflecting extensive community input and the urgent need for stronger enforcement tools.

Expanding the enforcement range ensures that speed limits are respected in the broader areas where students actually walk and bike to school, not just immediately in front of school buildings. Many schools in Providence are located near busy corridors like North Main Street, where pedestrian safety is a persistent challenge. By giving municipalities the ability to enforce speed limits over a more realistic distance, we can prevent dangerous speeding, reduce accidents, and make our streets safer for everyone.

I urge the committee to pass HB 5930 and give cities and towns the tools they need to protect schoolchildren and pedestrians. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I welcome any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Sue AnderBois

Deputy Majority Whip Councilor – Ward 3