

Dear Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Cedric Ye, and I am a high school student at Providence Country Day School. I am writing in support of H8098, the Super Speeders Accountability Act.

My school is located at the intersection of two multilane arterial roads, Pawtucket Avenue and Waterman Avenue. The two roads have a 35mph speed limit, and although there is a 25mph “school zone”, drivers usually travel far faster. I cross these roads every day to reach the bus stop. If I were hit by a driver going 10 mph over the speed limit, my chance of being killed would increase 30%. A driver traveling 20mph over the speed limit would increase my chance of dying from 10% to 80%. **Speeding matters to me because people make mistakes -- my school’s traffic light is often blocked by the sun -- and speed is the difference between whether I might survive or die from that mistake.**

Today, super speeders are punished with license suspension, but many drivers lack realistic alternatives to driving, especially given the unprecedented RIPTA service cuts last year. The incentives to drive without a license -- such as being able to keep one’s job -- are extremely high, so most people will continue to drive, jeopardizing themselves and everyone else on the road. This legislation addresses this issue by using Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA) in vehicles driven by the most dangerous speeders — those driving 20+ miles per hour over the limit on roads with a 40 mph limit or less, or 30+ mph over on roads with higher limits. ISA is a proven, life-saving technology that helps vehicles stay within the posted speed limit – it stops speeding while allowing otherwise high-risk drivers to make daily trips.

This bill will make our roads safer for everyone — drivers, passengers, and people traveling outside of cars who are much more likely to be seriously hurt or killed if hit by a speeding driver. I urge you to please support H8098.

Sincerely,

Cedric Ye  
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