

Dear Chair LaMountain and Committee members,

My name is Cheryl Lafond, I live in Manville, RI, and I am writing in support of H8098, Representative Casimiro's Super Speeders Accountability Act that would allow judges to order the installation of a speed-limiting device in the vehicles of repeat speeding offenders. This GPS-based technology automatically prevents a car from exceeding the posted speed limit.

I care about speeding in my community because all too often speed is the primary factor in most crashes, causing injuries, property damage and death, with a rippling effect on everyone. As an instructor, teaching the Coline Foote, DUI, Defensive Driving, Alive @ 25 and Teen Driver's Education, I see first hand speed is the primary reason the students are attending my classes.

It is disheartening, when I see chronic offenders repeatedly go through the program. Taking a driver improvement class is not enough. It would be beneficial to aid the driver in behavioral changes through technology, limiting their speed on roads they share with others.

Speeding contributes to 1/3 of deadly crashes across the US, and a small number of "Super Speeders" are disproportionately responsible. In 2019, 63% of all deaths in crashes were speed-related, placing Rhode Island as the state with the highest percentage of speed-related fatalities in the nation.

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.

Sincerely,

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