

PROVIDENCE -- STREETS COALITION

April 28, 2026

House Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee, Chair
82 Smith Street
Providence RI, 02903

RE: Support, Senate Bill H8098

Dear Chair McEntee and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am writing today on behalf of the Providence Streets Coalition, a nonprofit organization that advocates for safer streets, better transportation choices, and policies that advance mobility justice. We strongly support Rep. Casimiro's ([H8098](#)) — this legislation would hold the worst offenders of speeding and reckless driving accountable with Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA), a device that limits vehicle speed to the posted speed limits.

On December 6, 2025, Roderick MacLeod — a 70-year-old musician, teacher, and Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame inductee — was walking his dogs along the shoulder of Spring Street in Hope Valley when a car left its lane and killed him. The driver, investigators say, had accumulated **more than 100 prior arrests, 40 traffic citations, and two speeding convictions earlier that same year.**

There is a temptation, when confronted with a story like that, to conclude that only incarceration could have prevented this tragedy. That argument has limits. The driver's record included mostly misdemeanors and nonviolent offenses — the kind that rarely result in long sentences. A functioning justice system can't, and shouldn't, lock people up for what they might do in the future.

But here is what a functioning system can do: remove the means. And that is exactly what the Super Speeder Accountability Act would accomplish.

H8098 would give Rhode Island courts a new tool for the state's most dangerous drivers. Under the bill, anyone whose license has been suspended for excessive speeding, reckless driving, or repeated moving violations could be required, as a condition of getting that license back, to install a GPS-based speed-limiting device in their vehicle. The device is tamper-resistant and will not allow the car to exceed the posted speed limit. If someone tries to circumvent it, the system reports it.

The concept is familiar. Ignition interlock devices have been used in 31 states for drivers with drunk driving convictions. The logic is identical: if a person has demonstrated they cannot be trusted with a particular behavior behind the wheel, technology steps in where judgment has failed. This isn't punishment in place of rehabilitation. It's a condition of re-entry.

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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.

We recognize that the driver in the MacLeod case represents an extreme. But our roads are not only threatened by extremes. The habitual speeder, the driver who has burned through license suspensions and emerged unchanged — these are the people this bill is designed to reach. They are not rare.

Rory MacLeod had a 50-year career in music. He taught guitar, banjo, and upright bass. He was, by every account, exactly the kind of person whose loss diminishes a community. He was walking his dogs.

Rhode Island doesn't need to choose between the false options of incarceration and helplessness. We have a third path. This bill is it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Liza Birch
Board President
Providence Streets Coalition
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