



*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey, Chair
House Municipal Government and Housing
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: HOUSE BILL 8012 – AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- RHODE ISLAND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ACT

Dear Chair Casey and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, we are writing to express our support for House Bill 8012, the Rhode Island Pedestrian Safety Act. Enhancing pedestrian safety is a priority for all municipalities, and this legislation represents an important step forward in protecting residents in our communities, particularly our most vulnerable pedestrians.

House Bill 8012 would authorize municipalities to deploy automated road safety monitoring systems to enforce stop sign, crosswalk, and pedestrian right-of-way violations in school zones, hospital zones, and other designated safety areas. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a municipality that authorizes the use of automated road safety monitoring systems shall use the revenue generated by the systems to fund road safety projects with the highest potential to reduce vulnerable road user injuries and fatalities, including, but not limited to, improvements to access and safety for road users with mobility, sight, or other disabilities. This provision ensures that the program directly contributes to safer streets and equitable access for all residents.

The proposed civil fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for violations serves as a meaningful deterrent, encouraging drivers to comply with traffic laws in areas where pedestrian safety is paramount. For municipalities, these measures provide an effective mechanism to reduce traffic-related injuries and fatalities without placing additional demands on local enforcement resources.

The League appreciates that this bill empowers municipalities to take proactive measures tailored to the unique needs of their communities, while maintaining a focus on public safety. We believe House Bill 8012 is a practical, evidence-based approach that will help ensure safer streets for Rhode Island residents.

For these reasons, the League supports House Bill 8012. Thank you for the opportunity to present our perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Rossi", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing