

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** will masse <willmasse@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2026 10:22 AM  
**To:** House State Government and Elections Committee  
**Subject:** SUPPORT (H7576) - Access to Public Traffic Crash Records

Dear Chair Shanley and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Will Masse, and I am writing in support of H7576, Rep. Kislak's Access to Public Records Act that would make traffic crash data publicly available in Rhode Island.

I live in Rhode Island and travel most days by bicycle, and I also regularly walk and use public transportation. Because I spend so much time outside of a car, I am acutely aware of how dangerous our roads can be, especially when it comes to speeding and unsafe driving. I have experienced close calls while biking and walking that could have easily resulted in serious injury. These experiences have made me more aware of how little accessible information there is about where and why crashes are happening.

I have attempted to better understand traffic safety in my community, including looking into crash data to identify dangerous areas, but access to that information is extremely limited. Without public access, it is incredibly difficult for everyday residents, as well as advocates and local leaders, to identify patterns or push for meaningful safety improvements in the places that need them most.

As someone who regularly bikes and walks, I also know how important it is to learn from crashes when they do occur. Whether it's a personal experience or incidents in my community, every crash represents an opportunity to understand what went wrong and how it could be prevented in the future. Researchers, policymakers, municipalities, journalists, and advocates need access to de-identified crash data to identify hotspots, understand trends like time of day and road conditions, and prioritize safety improvements that can save lives.

According to RIDOT's FY2025 Highway Safety Improvement Program Annual Report, 556 people were killed in traffic crashes in Rhode Island between 2016 and 2024, and 2,664 were seriously injured. Yet without public access to detailed crash records, we are left without the tools needed to fully understand and address these tragedies. As the saying goes, you can't manage what you don't measure.

Forty-two other states already make this data publicly available. Rhode Island should not remain an outlier. Making crash data accessible is a common-sense, transparent step that will help make our streets safer for everyone—especially vulnerable road users like pedestrians and cyclists.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support H7576.

Sincerely,  
Will Masse