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NCSR

National Coalition
for **Safer Roads**

18 April 2025

The Honorable Nick Schultz
Chair of the Assembly Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 981 (Gipson) - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Schultz,

On behalf of the undersigned national organizations, we write in strong support of Assembly Bill 981 to Stop Super Speeders. This bill would reduce traffic deaths and injuries in California by allowing speed-limiting technology to be installed in the vehicles of drivers with repeat violations for excessive speeding (100+ mph) or reckless driving. This would serve as an alternative to costly fines or license suspension. Unlike license suspensions – which often fail to deter behavior and have low compliance – speed-limiting technology allows continued mobility while directly addressing the behavior of high-risk drivers. This policy represents a meaningful step toward improving safety on California roads.

California is facing a traffic safety crisis, driven in large part by excessive speeding. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, an estimated 12 people are killed each day on California roadways. One-third of these deaths are linked to speeding, as highlighted in the California Office of Traffic Safety's 2023 report¹. Speeding not only raises the risk of a crash, but it also significantly increases the likelihood of serious injury or death².

In 2020 alone, the California Highway Patrol issued an average of 3,000 citations per month for driving over 100 mph. Excessive speeding is the strongest predictor of someone being involved in a future lethal traffic crash³. Even one excessive speed conviction nearly doubles the probability of a driver being involved in a crash relative to those without a prior conviction. That means that by physically limiting the speed of drivers with excessive speeding convictions, **AB 981 will prevent thousands of fatal crashes every year.**

Nationally, 38% of all fatal speeding crashes involved drunk drivers. The linkage between substance-impaired driving behaviors like drunk and drugged driving with speeding is indisputable. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in 2022, alcohol impairment was found to be more common among speeding drivers in fatal traffic crashes than those drivers who were not speeding. Thirty-eight percent of speeding drivers involved in fatal crashes had BACs of .08 g/dL or greater, while 18% of non-speeding drivers were in this BAC range.

¹ [California Office of Traffic Safety Annual Report \(2023\)](#)

² [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

³ [Drivers' long-term crash risks associated with being ticketed for speeding - ScienceDirect](#)

Speed-limiting technology has been in use for decades and is widespread across Europe. In the U.S., it is increasingly being used in both private and public vehicle fleets. For example, the City of New York launched a pilot program in 2022 using speed limiters in its municipal fleet. The results were clear: speeding incidents dropped by 64%, and even high-risk drivers showed significant improvements. These results are based on rigorous data, including over 894,000 miles driven and more than 51 million individual data points.⁴.

California should follow suit of other states embracing this life-saving technology, including Washington, Virginia and Georgia, all of whom recently passed ISA bills similarly aimed at deterring the most dangerous drivers on their roads. And this sensible approach has public support: a study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) found that a majority of drivers would support the introduction of ISA devices into vehicles⁵.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) urged states to “*Implement programs to identify repeat speeding offenders and measurably reduce speeding recidivism.*”⁶. AB 981 is exactly the kind of solution that can meet that call.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your support for AB 981. If you have any questions about this letter or our position, please contact Kirsten at kirsten@streetsforall.org or (513) 328-3814.

Respectfully,

Amy Cohen

Founder, President & Mother of Sammy Cohen Eckstein (12/8/00-10/8/13)
Families for Safe Streets

Leah Shahum

Founder & Executive Director
Vision Zero Network

Mike McGinn

Executive Director
America Walks

Patricia Rillera

California State Executive Director
Mothers Against Drunk Driving / California Office

⁴ [DCAS & U.S. DOT Volpe Announce Municipal Speeding Reduction of 64% in New Report on Intelligent Speed | City of New York](#)

⁵ [Most drivers would be OK with anti-speeding tech in vehicles, survey shows](#)

⁶ [NTSB Virtual Meeting of November 14, 2023](#)

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It Could Be Me

cc: Assemblymember Mike Gipson