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Testimony to the Senate Transportation Committee In Support of SB476

February 15, 2024

Chairman Petersen and Committee Members:

Our associations support SB476. The bill is designed to address the persistent problem of speeding at very high speeds across our state. Differential of speeds are a factor in risk of accidents, and higher speed creates a more severe level of damage and injury. A vehicle travelling at 25 mph or more faster than the other traffic on the highway risk movements by law abiding drivers who may misjudge their closing rate of speed and make a turn or lane change, not realizing the high speed the vehicle is travelling, resulting in a high-speed crash. These crashes will be much more severe because of the high speed of the vehicle violating the speed limit.

The numbers of citations issued at speeds above 100 mph is alarming. We also know that the number of violators is much larger than those detected and cited. It is clear some additional sanction actions are needed.

Speeding at these high speeds is not by accident, it is not an unintended action, cannot be justified by a need to pass a slower vehicle quickly, or any other reason. It is an intentional decision completely disregarding the safety of others on the highway obeying the traffic laws.

We encourage the Committee to move this bill forward favorably.

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