

March 16th, 2021

House Transportation Committee:

Representative Dan Ruby Committee Chairman and Committee Members,

Supportive written testimony for SB2121

Saving lives with proper seat belt usage for all passenger in a vehicle.

Our Seat belts are the single most effective safety device to prevent death and injury in a motor vehicle crash. Are we not required to wear fluorescent orange during the deer gun season, and it must be so many square inches as well? **It saves lives!**

Seat belts restrain occupants in the vehicle's designed protective space, giving them room to live in the event of a crash and prevents them from colliding with other occupants in the vehicle. A seat belt also keeps the driver correctly positioned behind the wheel to help maintain control of a vehicle. **Let us help save a life!**

More than 2.2 million drivers and passengers were treated in emergency department as the result of being injured in motor vehicle crashes in 2018 in the united states. This resulted in almost \$62 billion in lifetime medical and work loss costs in 2017 alone in non-fatal crashes in the nation. **Saving on insurance cost, medical cost, and loss of productive work time.**

In 2019, 46% of motor vehicle fatalities in North Dakota were not wearing seat belts.

How many fatalities are acceptable in your family? **We are aiming for zero.**

Pass this bill and protect those around us as we together **save lives.**

Dunn County Commissioner,

Daryl Dukart