



Highway Department

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To: North Dakota Senate Transportation Committee
From: Leah Kelm
Date: March 2, 2023
RE: Testimony IN FAVOR of HB 1141

North Dakota Senate Transportation Committee,

As it is currently written, North Dakota's "Slow Down, Move Over" law only applies to authorized emergency vehicles or vehicles used for maintaining the state highway system when displaying a flashing, revolving, or rotating amber, blue, white, or red light. It does not apply to any other vehicle disabled on the side of our roads.

Slowing down and/or moving over for a disabled vehicle seems like common sense. However, an online survey conducted by AAA last year found that about one in every ten North Dakota drivers never, rarely, or only sometimes abide by the unwritten rule.

Across the country, nearly 350 people are struck and killed every year while outside a disabled vehicle. As soon as a person exits their disabled vehicle, they become a pedestrian. According to NHTSA, it is estimated that about 5 percent of pedestrians would die when struck by a vehicle traveling 20 mph at impact; about 40 percent would die from vehicles traveling 30 mph at impact; 80 percent at 40 mph; and nearly 100 percent would die when struck by vehicles traveling at speeds over 50 mph at impact. If there is no speed limit posted, North Dakota highways and interstates have speed limits between 55-75 mph. By slowing down and moving over, drivers are able to create a safer environment for those on and off our roads.

HB 1141 would protect all North Dakotans by extending existing "Slow Down, Move Over" protections to any disabled vehicle, with flashers on, at the roadside.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration of a "Do Pass" committee recommendation for HB 1141. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding my testimony or if you are interested in discussing the importance of updating North Dakota's "Slow Down, Move Over" law further.

Leah Kelm
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