

**March 18, 2021**

**ND House Transportation Committee**

**Chairman Dan Ruby and Members of the Committee**

**SB 2121          Primary Seat Belt Enforcement**

The American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA) is composed of over 1,200 member companies and 330 insurance groups and represents the broadest cross-section of home, auto, and business insurers of any national insurance trade association. In North Dakota, APCIA member insurers provide almost 69 percent of all the insurance purchased by the state's citizens and businesses.

We urge support for SB 2121, legislation that will enhance ND law enforcing safety belt use as increased enforcement of this practice is a proven lifesaver. According to the Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety in 2017, "there were 37,133 motor vehicle crash fatalities on U.S. roads. Among passenger vehicle occupant fatalities that year, almost half, (47 percent) were unrestrained when restraint use was known. For passengers that survived fatal crashes in 2017, just 13 percent were unrestrained. Seat belt use, reinforced by effective safety belt laws, is a proven lifesaver."

Thank you.

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