

Testimony on SB 2168

Thank you Chairman Ruby and members of the House Transportation Committee.

For the record, my name is Dean Rummel, Senator from District 37 out of Dickinson.

I believe we all can agree that everyone would want our roadways safer with no fatalities. This bill has the potential to save lives.

This bill simply doubles the fines for those individuals who exceed the posted speed limit by 21 mph or more. So on Interstate 94 if you see someone go by you at 96 mph and they are stopped by the ND Highway Patrol, the fine will go up from \$105 to \$210. This does not affect the speeding fines at 20 mph or below over the posted speed limit. For your information, those speeding fines at 20 mph or below have not changed for the 55 mph speed zone since 1983, the 60-65 mph speed zone since 1985, and the 70 mph and greater speed zones have not changed since 2003.

There were 377,310 speed and careless driving related citations issued from 2017 to 2021. 20,921 of those citations were for 20 mph over the posted speed limit. That averages out to 4,184 citations per year for that 5-

year time period. This bill would double the fines for those citations.

We need to financially encourage those individuals who drive 21 mph over the posted speed limit to slow down and save lives. Speeding and or aggressive driving has been a factor in 34% of fatal crashes in North Dakota in 2021.

By your do pass vote of Senate Bill 2168, it will send a clear message of support for the ND Strategic Highway Safety Plan's VISION ZERO, zero fatalities, zero excuses.

I will attempt to answer any questions that you might have. But with us is Sgt. Wade Kadrmas, the Chair for the Vision Zero Speeding/Aggressive Driving Priority Emphasis Area Team with the ND Highway Patrol. He is an expert and can provide you with the best answers to any of your questions.