

Good morning, Chairman Ruby and members of the committee. My name is Karin Mongeon and I am the Highway Safety Division Director for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). I am here this morning to speak in favor of SB 2168.

Speeding endangers everyone on the road. It greatly reduces the driver's ability to slow a vehicle when necessary or to steer safely around an unexpected curve, or another vehicle or hazardous object in the road. Most motorists rarely drive aggressively, and some never do. For others, episodes of speeding/aggressive driving are frequent, and for a small proportion of motorists it is their typical driving behavior.

There is a direct correlation between collision speed and the *severity* of a crash. The higher the collision speed, the more serious the consequences in terms of injury and material damage.

In addition, the human body is physically very vulnerable in comparison to the enormous forces released in a collision. During the past decades, vehicles have become better equipped (crush areas, airbags and seatbelts) to absorb the energy released in a crash, thus protecting the occupants. However, the collision speed is still very important to the crash outcome. *(Source: Institute for Road Safety Research)*

In 2021, a speed/aggressive driving-involved crash occurred in North Dakota every 2.5 hours, on average. Reducing speed/aggressive driving crashes presents a significant opportunity to reduce total fatality and serious injury crashes.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to respond to any questions you may have.