

March 7, 2023

North Dakota House Transportation Committee & House Members

Re: Support of Senate Bill 2362

Hello, my name is Jasmine Wangen and I am resident of Grand Forks in Grand Forks county. I have 2 young children and have lived in North Dakota my whole life. For the past 8 years I have worked in injury prevention as a car seat technician instructor. With my role, I talk often to adults and children on the importance of buckling up in the car. We often hear "I'm a good driver, I'm not going to get in a crash.", but in reality, no one plans to get in a crash and sometimes the best driver can be up against someone that isn't such a good driver and the outcome can be horrible. Knowing that just wearing a seat belt can sometimes turn a deadly crash into a minor injury should be enough to make everyone want to buckle up. We know that isn't the case and have to look to our law to help people make the best decision to stay safe.

The proposed legislation is also to add that back seat passengers are required to wear their seatbelt. The people in the back seat are just as much at risk as others in the vehicle and oftentimes if unbuckled, can crash into and kill or injure other occupants.

Our law in North Dakota is in need of updating and I hope you will support Senate Bill 2362.

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