

GRAND FORKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

122 S 5TH ST, SUITE 210

GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA 58201-4632

SHERIFFS.OFFICE@GFCOUNTY.ORG

PHONE: 701-780-8280

FAX: 701-780-8307



SHERIFF ANDY SCHNEIDER

To: Transportation Committee Members
From: Sheriff Andy Schneider
Date: March 9th, 2023
RE: SB 2362

Dear Transportation Committee members,

My name is Andy Schneider, and I have the privilege of being the Sheriff of Grand Forks County. I come before you today to give testimony regarding why I am in favor of SB 2362, personally and professionally.

- By simply encouraging personal safety with a yes vote, you can have the most significant financial impact this session with a fiscal note of zero dollars. This is not about writing tickets.
- No driver is immune from being involved in a crash, nor can they completely control avoiding crashes.
- Persons' choices to not buckle up do not affect only that individual and their loved ones. I am well aware that those who do not want to buckle up will continue to not buckle up. This legislation is not going to change their minds. They typically aren't following other laws you have created either.
- Personal and professional experiences responding to crashes where persons were and were not buckled impact myself and others. I cannot un-see things. This bill will help reduce the amount of calls that cops, EMT's, firefighters, families, and innocent bystanders become part of where they wish they never had to see 'those things'.
- Emotional impact on emergency responders is very real and it is becoming very expensive. Paying to have officers evaluated for their mental wellness prior to returning to work is a real expense to taxpayers. More dead bodies equals more psych exams.
- Financial impact on agencies for days off for responding officers (recovery from critical incidents).
- Temporary impact on staffing for all first responders and all directly associated with victim.
- Implementation of new equipment and traffic violation laws has not resulted in exponential growth in citations for that offense, nor a significant reduction in deaths.
- Agency has daily operations, which do not allow constant enforcement of all traffic laws, or even a few for most instances.
- All involved with this process have done what has been repeatedly asked by the legislature session after session. I respectfully request for the elected leaders to listen to all the experts and provide the missing link, a primary seat belt requirement. Cars are designed to stay inside during a crash, not to be thrown out of.
- Buckle up, it will save your life someday. If not for you, do it for your family, your loved ones, for first responders, and for those innocent people utilizing the same roadways that never dreamed in a million years that they would see somebody dead on a roadway, but now will have those images engrained into their minds the rest of their lives.

I sincerely thank you for your time and consideration today. I am available at any time of day or night to further discuss this important bill with any and all of you.

Andy Schneider
Sheriff
Grand Forks County
701-741-2269
Andrew.schneider@gfcounty.org