

Good morning, Chairman Clemens 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 with the enormous forces released in a collision. During the past decades, vehicles have become better equipped (with 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 for 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.

### *Vision Zero*

The NDDOT, along with the North Dakota Highway Patrol, is assigned responsibility for the public safety of road users. Both agencies take this responsibility very seriously and are partners in the North Dakota the Vision Zero strategy to reduce motor vehicle crash deaths and serious injuries in North Dakota to zero.

Vision Zero was launched five years ago in January 2018 along with the North Dakota Governor's Office and other state, public and private sector partners. Vision Zero has been successful through the application of a combination of strategies that include education/outreach, high visibility enforcement, infrastructure safety solutions and other strategies.

Reducing speed/aggressive driving crashes presents a significant opportunity to reduce total fatality and serious injury crashes through Vision Zero.

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