**Testimony - Senate Bill 2362**
**Senate Transportation Committee**
**Friday – February 3, 2023**
**North Dakota Safety Council / Dennis Snodgrass**

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee and guests, my name is Dennis Snodgrass and am writing in favor of SB 2362. I am a safety consultant with the North Dakota Safety Council, Chairman of the Minot Accident Review Board, former law enforcement, author, and public speaker. However, the roles I cherish most is that of husband, father, and grandfather.

I talk often with people around the state about the importance of making good choices and safe decisions when operating a motor vehicle. I especially discuss seatbelts and the importance of utilizing them to help keep all occupants safe should they be involved in a crash or collision. As a public figure and, more importantly, a parent, I firmly believe it is our responsibility to be a positive role model for our children and set a good example.

Children learn at a young age that they must be belted in. After all, it's the law. When parents look at seatbelt use as a secondary offense and choose to not wear their seatbelts, they are teaching their children that seatbelts are optional. In other words, they are establishing a standard for their children that they will likely emulate later in life. They're setting an example.
I believe personal choice is important until it negatively impacts others. By teaching children, they only must wear the seatbelt until they achieve adulthood, they are now impacting others with their personal choices.

I urge you to help make seatbelt usage mandatory for all occupants in the vehicle and support this lifesaving bill. Remember, you may be the only person in your vehicle physically, but you are never traveling alone. You have so many people who depend on you to make the right choices and arrive home safely every day.

I thank you fore allowing me to testify today in support of SB 2362.

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