

Testimony
68th Legislative Assembly
Senate Transportation Committee
Senate Bill 2362
February 3, 2023
Submitted by: Sarah Myers

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 2362. My name is Sarah Myers, I am a registered nurse and I have been a member of Safe Kids coalitions for 21 years as a child safety advocate. I am testifying today as a private citizen.

The number one contributing factor in motor vehicle crash deaths in North Dakota is not wearing a seat belt.

- More people die in motor vehicle crashes in North Dakota from being unbelted than other common contributing crash factors such as drunk driving, distracted driving, or speeding. (NDDOT)
- Over the past five years (2017-2021), 522 people died on North Dakota's roads. Of those people killed in car crashes where seat belts apply (excluding motorcycles, bicyclists and pedestrians) 51% were not wearing a seat belt. (NDDOT)
- North Dakota's seat belt use rate is 81.9 percent (NDDOT/NDSU UGPTI, 2021). This means that about 18 percent – about 140,000 North Dakotans – remain extremely vulnerable to the consequences of a crash. This 18 percent is contributing to about half of North Dakota crash deaths annually.

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