

Good afternoon, Chairman Ruby and members of the House Transportation Committee.

My name is Austen Schauer, District 13, West Fargo.

House Bill 1229 (as amended) address the vehicle owner's responsibility when a driver flees a police officer.

In 1986, the mother of Sen. Bryon Dorgan was killed in a car crash in Bismarck.

Police were chasing a drunk driver at estimated speeds of 80 to 100 miles per hour when the accident happened. She was dead at the scene.

Sen. Dorgan called for a change in police policies concerning high-speed chases in urban areas and better training of officers on when and how to engage in a chase.

The Dorgan tragedy was not in vain as it did lead to changes.

Police in urban areas no longer pursue drivers who flee because of danger to the public. Unfortunately, the **fleeing drivers** know it and away they go.

House Bill 1229 is an effort to give local police a tool to deal with this problem.

The essence of **HB 1229** is on **page 1, lines 8-10**, which says police can levy a \$50 fine to the **owner** of a vehicle for the first violation of fleeing an officer, and a one thousand dollar fine for subsequent violations.