

March 5, 2025

Dear Chairman and members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

I am writing to you in opposition to HB 1298. I do not believe we need to raise the speed limit on our Interstate highways. Some may say they are comfortable driving at a higher speed, yet we have many instances where driving too fast has caused accidents. We may have a lot of flat roadways which allow for great visibility in good weather, yet North Dakota experiences a wide variety of weather conditions that may impair visibility and disguise road conditions. A higher speed limit may encourage people to drive faster than they should on icy or snow-covered road conditions making it harder to slow down and avoid an accident.

We have many young drivers in this state, some of which include my grandchildren. They do not have the experience driving at high speeds yet may feel that since that is the speed limit, they should be driving at that speed even if they are not comfortable doing it. Since our young people can get a permit at the age of 14 and drive with a licensed driver, they will be out there. If they have an accident, they could lose their own life or take someone else's. Even just a life-threatening injury of their own or someone else's will traumatize them for life.

I have had an accident before. My daughter had an accident on Interstate. It is not I ever want to go through again. Please vote "Do Not Pass" on HB 1298.

Thank you for your time.