



April 7, 2021

Honorable Roland Lemar
Transportation Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 2103
Hartford, CT 06106

Honorable Henri Martin
Transportation Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 2403
Hartford, CT 06106

Honorable Will Haskell
Transportation Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106

Honorable Laura Devlin
Transportation Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 4200
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairs Lemar and Haskell and Ranking Members Martin and Devlin:

We write in support of H.B.5429, which in Section 21 would establish a pilot program to use automated traffic enforcement safety devices in school zones. Cameras have a proven track record for reducing speed in school zones and making kids safer as they walk and bike to school. It is important to emphasize that this legislation covers only school zones as well as work zones.

One of the first tests of speed cameras in school zones took place in in Portland, Oregon. In 2005, Portland placed safety devices at five neighborhood schools and the results were significant. Speeding by more than 10 mph was reduced by two thirds following the speed zone cameras.¹ In 2019, *The New York Times* reported that traffic deaths in school zones with speed cameras fell by more than half, and speeding was reduced by more than 60 percent.² In Rockville, Maryland, law enforcement reported that the cameras reduced school zone traffic because drivers would take alternate routes.³ School zone safety cameras focusing on speed are an effective tool to keep kids safe and we urge passage of H.B.5429 and implementation of the pilot project.

Safe Kids Worldwide is a grassroots nonprofit dedicated to protecting kids from preventable injuries, the number one cause of death to children in the United States. Safe Kids is a go-to resource to help parents keep kids safe from car crashes, fires, falls, poisoning and more. Through more than 417 coalitions in the U.S., Safe Kids works with children's hospitals, trauma centers, first responders and public health experts to get life- saving information to families. Our network is strong in Connecticut, with five coalitions under the leadership of Safe Kids Connecticut, which is based out of Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

We applaud your leadership and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Amy Watkins, Safe Kids Connecticut
Mark Blake, Safe Kids Fairfield Coalition
Renee Malaro, Safe Kids New London Coalition

Taylor Savage, a Safe Kids Worldwide Public Policy Intern and senior at Old Dominion University, assisted in research and drafting this letter.

¹ Office of Research and Technology. (2006). *Demonstration of Automated Speed Enforcement in School Zones in Portland, Oregon*. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Available at: <https://rosap.nhtl.bts.gov/view/dot/1766>.

² Wang V. (2019, March 19). Speed Cameras Will Surround Every New York City Public School. *The New York Times*. Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/19/nyregion/speed-cameras-schools-nyc.html>.

³ National Center for Safe Routes to School. *Getting Results: SRTS Programs That Reduce Speeding and Distracted Driving*. Available at: https://www.pedbikeinfo.org/pdf/SRTSlocal_GettingResults_DrivingBehavior.pdf.