



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Robert Wunderlich, Mayor

May 12, 2021

The Honorable Susan Rubio
California State Senate, 22nd District
State Capitol, Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 735 (Rubio) School zone safety: speed safety cameras
City of Beverly Hills – Support

Dear Senator Rubio,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to write to you in SUPPORT of your SB 735, which would help increase the safety of children and pedestrians by allowing the use of speed safety cameras in school zones.

Speeding endangers not only the driver and occupants of the vehicle but also other motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists. The consequences of speeding include:

- Greater potential for loss of vehicle control;
- Reduced effectiveness of occupant protection equipment;
- Increased stopping distance after the driver perceives a danger;
- Increased degree of crash severity leading to more severe injuries;
- Economic implications of a speed-related crash; and
- Increased fuel consumption and costs.

Speed safety cameras in school zones are a proven technology, which can change behavior and reduce speeding in school zones. School zones are designed to be low-speed areas, but studies have found that two-thirds of drivers exceed the posted speed limit in a school zone during the 30-minute period before and after school.

Nationwide, 112,580 people were killed in speeding-related incidents from 2005 to 2014. California is no exception: every year for the past five years, more than 1,000 Californians have died in speed-related traffic collisions. A report compiled by the Governors Highway Association (GHSA) in 2020 projected that pedestrian deaths reached their highest point in more than 30 years.

Each year, 85 to 87 percent of speeding related fatalities occur on non-interstate roadways. The draft legislation proposes to limit the use speed enforcement systems in school zones, potentially lowering fatalities.

As California's schools return to in-person learning, it is expected that more children will walk and bike to school. Allowing speed safety cameras in school zones will help ensure their safety.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills SUPPORTS your SB 735. Thank you for authoring this important measure.

Sincerely,



Robert Wunderlich

Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

Cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Transportation and Judiciary Committees
The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange