

**PROPONENT TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**REGARDING SENATE BILL 113  
RELATING TO SPEEDING 100 MPH+ and 35MPH+**

**February 5, 2025**

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

I am Catherine Magaña, and I am Legislative Liaison for the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). I am here today to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 113. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and to provide comments.

KDOT supports this bill as it relates to safety on our roadways. Safety for the traveling public is a priority at KDOT. Speeding puts the lives of everyone on Kansas roadways at risk, including our KDOT workforce, law enforcement and other first responders who are out working on our roads daily. Traveling at higher speeds decreases a driver's reaction time, resulting in an increased likelihood of a vehicle crash. These higher speeds also increase the likelihood that those involved in a crash, including drivers and passengers, will sustain more severe injuries, including fatalities. KDOT strives to improve the safety and quality of life for the traveling public. This bill will change the definition of reckless driving to include driving 100+ mph, or 35+ mph than the posted speed limit. Drivers convicted of excessive speeding will face jail time and/or fines and these penalties will increase for subsequent offenses. These additional penalties are meant to hold offenders accountable and be a strong deterrent to drivers that are driving above the posted speed limit and putting themselves and everyone else on the road at risk. This bill supports the mission of the Drive to Zero coalition to reduce deaths and injuries on all Kansas roads. Furthermore, it supports two of Drive to Zero's focus areas: safer speeds and safer people.

Law enforcement may identify an excessive speeding crash as: aggressive driving, careless or reckless driving, exceeded speed limit, or too fast for conditions. 2023 crash data identifies 123 fatal crashes and 133 fatalities attributed to speeding. Also in 2023, speeding resulted in 449 suspected serious injury crashes and 602 people seriously injured. 735 individuals died or had a life changing injury due to speeding in 2023. Crash data from 2019-2023 shows that 689 people died and nearly 2,500 people were seriously injured in speeding related crashes. Annually, about a third of all traffic fatalities in the state can be attributed to speeding.

<b>2023</b>				
<b>Contributing Circumstances</b>	<b>Fatal Crashes</b>	<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>Suspected Serious Injury Crashes</b>	<b>Suspected Serious Injuries</b>
Aggressive Driving	6	7	17	24
Careless or Reckless Driving	38	41	151	209
Exceeded Speed Limit	49	52	115	159
Too Fast For Conditions	30	33	166	210
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>602</b>

This bill would create another tool to help curb this dangerous and risky behavior by holding drivers accountable. Speeding at 100+ mph or 35+ mph above the posted speed limit not only puts the driver at risk, but also endangers all other road users that are obeying the traffic laws and hoping to make it to their destination safely.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 113. I am happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.