



Testimony of Amy Cohen
Founder and President, Families for Safe Streets
In Support of the Stop Super Speeders Accountability Act (H.789)
Vermont General Assembly

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is Amy Cohen. I am the Founder and President of Families for Safe Streets, a national organization of people whose lives have been forever changed by traffic violence. We are a grassroots network of crash victims, survivors, and family members who have lost loved ones. We provide peer support to grieving families, advocate for proven traffic safety policies, and work to end preventable roadway deaths and serious injuries.

I come before you as a mother who has experienced unimaginable loss. On a normal morning, I kissed my son goodbye as he headed to school, and I went to work. After my day, I was on my way to a parent-teacher conference while he was headed to soccer practice. That day ended in tragedy. My son was killed by a speeding driver. No parent should ever have to bury their child.

Sammy was a kind, determined young boy—an athlete, musician, and strong student who brought joy to everyone around him. He loved a challenge. Just months before his death, he rode in a 100-mile century ride and was the youngest participant to finish. It was a reflection of who he was—disciplined, focused, and full of quiet determination far beyond his years.

Just three years after losing his favorite cousin, on the exact same day, October 8th, my nephew Noah also lost five fellow students from the Mad River Valley in a separate crash on Interstate 89. These are tragedies that permanently divide a family's life into before and after.

Since I have lived in Vermont, I have also seen this pattern continue close to home. In our community, we have lost two young mothers in crashes, including a woman struck while crossing the street in Waitsfield and another mother killed after being hit by a truck in front of Harwood Union High School. And in just the past few months, there have been alarming high-speed crashes in the Mad River Valley area, including vehicles striking historic buildings in Waitsfield. These events reflect a dangerous and persistent pattern of speeding and reckless driving in Vermont.

Too many people—walking, biking, and driving—have lost their lives or suffered life-altering injuries because of speeding. These are not rare events. They are preventable ones.

Speeding is not just a traffic violation. It is one of the leading contributors to fatal crashes, and it turns survivable collisions into deadly ones. The data consistently shows that a small number of drivers, repeat and extreme speeders, are responsible for a disproportionate share of serious

harm on our roads. These drivers take away not only lives, but futures—children growing up, parents raising families, and communities staying whole.

The Stop Super Speeders Accountability Act (H.789) offers a practical, data-driven solution. Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA) technology is an aftermarket device that can be added to any vehicle and can limit a vehicle's speed to posted limits. H.789 is designed specifically to target habitual and reckless speeders. This is not about punishing everyday drivers. It is about preventing the most dangerous behavior from escalating into tragedy.

This approach is also carefully designed to be implemented fairly and effectively. Families for Safe Streets' white paper outlines key safeguards for any ISA program, including strong data privacy protections and measures to ensure the policy does not disproportionately impact low-income drivers. While it is critical that the program does not negatively impact low-income drivers, it is worth noting that a recent study from another state found that the majority of super speeders drive high-performance luxury vehicles.

Across the country, momentum is growing, with bills introduced in 16 states this year alone. Families for Safe Streets supports this legislation because we have seen firsthand what speeding does—and we know that prevention is possible.

I urge you to support H.789. Vermont families deserve streets where children can walk to school safely, where people can drive to work without fear, and where no one has to experience the kind of loss my family has endured.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions and I also have a vehicle equipped with ISA here today if anyone wants to test out the technology..



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Families for Safe Streets (FSS) confronts the epidemic of traffic violence by advocating for life-saving changes and providing support to those who have been impacted by crashes. FSS is a national movement with members across the country who have been injured or lost loved ones.