

Brent "Butch" Johnson
1434 Cliff Ave.
Duluth MN. 55811

Minnesota State Senate Transportation Committee
Attn: Beth Ethier, Committee Administrator
Minnesota Senate Building
Room 1100
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 5, 2024

Dear Senators,

Subject: Written testimony in support of SF 3993

I am writing to express my deep concern about the safety of our children, particularly those who walk to school, due to the lack of proper infrastructure on the county road near our neighborhood. As a parent of a 6th grader attending Marshall School, I am acutely aware of the hazards our children face when crossing this road each day.

The road, located just a block and a half from our residence, poses significant dangers to pedestrians, especially young students. Not only does it have a speed limit of 40 mph, but there are also no crosswalks or lights to indicate that drivers are entering a school zone. This lack of infrastructure makes it extremely challenging for our children to safely navigate across the road, especially during the busy morning rush when traffic is heavy and drivers are often exceeding the speed limit.

Without designated crosswalks or lights to alert drivers to the presence of a school zone, our children are left vulnerable to accidents and potential harm. As parents, we have tried to educate our children about road safety, but the absence of proper signage and infrastructure only increases their risk when walking to school.

In addition to addressing these infrastructure deficiencies, I strongly urge you to consider implementing a reduced speed limit of 15 mph in school zones. Lowering the speed limit would provide an additional layer of protection for our children, giving drivers more time to react to potential hazards and reducing the severity of accidents if they were to occur.

It is essential that we prioritize the safety of our children and provide them with a secure environment to travel to and from school. By investing in proper infrastructure, such as crosswalks, pedestrian lights, and appropriate signage, and implementing a reduced speed limit in school zones, we can ensure that our children can commute safely and confidently, without fear of accidents or harm.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will take the necessary steps to address these concerns and enhance pedestrian safety in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Brent "Butch" Johnson
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