

June 5th, 2023

The Honorable Laura Friedman
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5740
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 645 (Friedman)—Vehicles: Speed Safety System Pilot Program

Dear Assemblymember Friedman,

On behalf of the San Francisco Youth Commission, I am writing to express our support for your bill, AB 645 (Friedman). AB 645 authorizes Speed Safety System Pilot Programs that would allow automated enforcement of speed limits in several California municipalities including San Francisco in school zones or areas with a history of injuries, fatalities or speeding, helping achieve Vision Zero goals.

The Youth Commission is composed of seventeen youths, between the ages of 12 to 23, who represent the diverse communities of San Francisco. Created by the voters under a 1995 amendment to the City Charter, the Youth Commission advises the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor of San Francisco on policies and laws related to young people. The Youth Commission is also charged with providing comments and recommendations on all proposed laws that primarily affect youth before the Board takes final action.

The Youth Commission supports AB 645 because Speed Safety Systems, also referred to as Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE), are a critical component to reducing dangerous speeding. Studies have shown a pedestrian who is struck by a vehicle traveling at 30 MPH is twice as likely to be killed as a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling at 25 MPH and in jurisdictions such as New York City where ASE has been implemented, total crashes declined by 15%, total injuries by 17%, fatalities by 55%, and speeding by 70%. Traffic fatalities are the second highest cause of death among US Teens, second only to gun violence and ASE is a critical component in reducing this alarming statistic.

Automated Speed Enforcement authorized by AB645 is critical to reducing traffic fatalities, achieving vision zero goals, and providing safe streets for users of all ages and abilities. When deployed with geographic equity, automated speed enforcement also helps reduce bias in traffic enforcement as it eliminates potential for profiling and pretext based traffic stops. Thank you for your continued leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Emily Nguyen, Chair