



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND

Testimony in Support of House Bill 5951
Submitted by Mayor Christopher Beauchamp
City of Woonsocket, Rhode Island
March 26, 2025

Chairman Casey and members of the committee,

I serve as the Mayor of Woonsocket. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of House Bill 5951, which would allow municipalities to expand the use of automated speed enforcement systems beyond school zones to designated safety zones throughout Rhode Island.

Traffic safety is a priority for our city, as it is for communities across the state. Speeding remains one of the leading causes of accidents, injuries, and fatalities on our roads. Woonsocket has had more than enough tragedies due to speeding and reckless driving. While automated speed enforcement has already proven to be an effective tool in protecting children near schools, its benefits should not be limited solely to those areas. By expanding these systems to designated safety zones—such as high-traffic pedestrian areas, senior centers, parks, and hospital zones, we can enhance safety for all residents, reduce dangerous driving behaviors, and prevent avoidable tragedies.

In Woonsocket, we have seen firsthand how reckless speeding threatens the well-being of our community. We recently lost a 4-year-old little girl, Eliza Khan due to speeding. Her mother, Dena, was seriously injured as well. This incident has shaken our community and people want solutions. The ability to implement automated speed enforcement in additional safety zones would provide a proactive, cost-effective solution to enforce speed limits and protect pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists alike. Furthermore, this measure would allow law enforcement to allocate resources more efficiently while maintaining a consistent presence in high-risk areas.

I urge the committee to support House Bill 5951 and provide cities and towns with the necessary tools to improve roadway safety. Expanding automated speed enforcement will help save lives, reduce accidents, and create safer streets for all Rhode Islanders.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher Beauchamp
Mayor, City of Woonsocket