



The Honorable Ana Maria Rodriguez
The Florida Senate
314 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

March 13, 2023

Dear Senator Rodriguez:

Thank you for sponsoring SB 588 to enhance enforcement of vehicle speed limits in school zones. We strongly support this legislation and look forward to its implementation and positive impact on the safety of children throughout Florida.

Since our non-profit organization's founding 25 years ago, we have helped Florida take many important steps to improve safety for people on bikes, including recent legislation that makes texting while driving a primary offense and that requires drivers of motor vehicles to give at least three feet of space when they pass people on bikes. Now, it's time to tackle another problem: vehicular speeding within school zones.

As you know, too many children in Florida are threatened by people driving too fast through school zones. We can't ignore studies such as Zendrive's in 2018 that ranked Florida among the worst in the nation for school-area and school-time traffic safety. Also, reports like Smart Growth America's *Dangerous by Design* consistently rank numerous Florida cities as the most deadly in the country for people walking and biking. State agencies have heeded the call for better policies and street designs and are working to improve safety for all roadway users. One critical component of traffic safety is ensuring vehicle speeds are appropriate for the context. We can't think of a place more important to do so than around schools.

SB 588 and the companion bill HB 657 (Koster) specifically prioritize the safety of our most vulnerable community members—children—during one of their most vulnerable times of day—getting to and from school. We commend you and Representative Koster for being champions of student safety and proponents for a bike-friendly Florida.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "K. Morphy".

Kelly Morphy
Executive Director



The Honorable Nick DiCeglie
The Florida Senate
310 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

March 13, 2023

Dear Senator DiCeglie:

We support SB 588, "Enforcement of School Zone Speed Limits," for its expected positive impact on the safety of children throughout Florida. The bill—which comes before your Transportation Committee tomorrow—would give communities a simple, effective and inexpensive way to help ensure that vehicle speeds are kept low and safe in school areas immediately before, during, and immediately after school.

Since our non-profit organization's founding 25 years ago, we have helped Florida take many important steps to improve safety for people on bikes, including recent legislation that makes texting while driving a primary offense and that requires drivers of motor vehicles to give at least three feet of space when they pass people on bikes. Now, it's time to tackle another problem: vehicular speeding within school zones.

Too many children in Florida are threatened by people driving too fast through school zones. In fact, a 2018 study by Zendrive found that Florida ranked among the worst in the nation for school-area and school-time traffic safety. Reports such as Smart Growth America's *Dangerous by Design* consistently rank numerous Florida cities as the deadliest in the country for people walking and biking. State agencies have heeded the call for better policies and street designs and are working to improve safety for all roadway users. One critical component of traffic safety is ensuring vehicle speeds are appropriate for the context. We can't think of a place more important to do so than around schools.

SB 588 (Rodriguez) and its companion bill HB 657 (Koster) specifically prioritize the safety of our most vulnerable community members—children—during one of their most vulnerable times of day—getting to and from school. Please support SB 588, students' safety, and a bike-friendly Florida.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "K Morphy".

Kelly Morphy
Executive Director