



AAA Opposes Illinois Bill to Increase Speed Limits to 70 MPH

AAA Chicago strongly advocates against SB 2356, which would allow all vehicles to travel at 70 mph on four-lane highways because the bill has the potential to drastically increase the risk of injury and death on Illinois highways.

Fatalities due to speeding already on the rise

The data taken from National Highway Transportation Safety Administration are clear. Fatalities due to speeding on Illinois roadways are on the rise. Already, more than half of fatalities on Illinois roadways are due to speeding.

Illinois Fatalities by Crash Type

Crash Type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total Fatalities (All Crashes)*	1,248	1,043	911	927	918
- (3) Involving Speeding	523	386	325	438	439

Speed limits for large trucks were raised in 2010 and 2011

The data clearly show the results of these speed limit increases, a nearly 39% increases in fatal crashes involving large trucks since the higher speed limit laws were enacted for large trucks:

Illinois Fatalities by Crash Type

Crash Type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total Fatalities (All Crashes)*	1,248	1,043	911	927	918
- (2) Involving a Large Truck	154	146	88	112	122

Trucks traveling faster continue to be dangerous for your constituents - In fatal two-vehicle crashes involving a passenger vehicle and a large truck, 98 percent of the deaths occur to the occupants in the passenger vehicles.

Higher Speeds = Higher Costs for your constituents

The cost of speed is an enormous toll on our society. From the AAA Foundation's 2011 study on crashes vs. congestion, our conservative estimate on the cost of each traffic fatality to society is \$6 million. At that rate, Illinois currently spends over \$2.6 billion on traffic fatalities related to speeding

Illinois also consistently has among the highest gasoline costs in the nation. The U.S. Department of Energy reports that the fuel efficiency of most vehicles decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph. Ever 5 mph driven over 60 mph is like paying an additional \$0.24 per gallon for gas.

Approving SB 2356 would be a step backwards for Illinois road safety.

This Illinois legislature has made significant strides in improving road safety, and is presented with additional opportunities to reduce the risks on Illinois roads. Approving SB 2356 would reverse this trend, negate the strides we have made and compromise our leadership's commitment to reducing crashes, injuries and fatalities on Illinois roads.

Thank you for considering our position.