




## MINNESOTA SAFETY COUNCIL

 Chapter of the National Safety Council

May 10, 2021

The Honorable Members of the Minnesota State Legislature  
Transportation Finance and Policy Conference Committee  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN

Regarding: Work Zone Safety Pilot Program (SF 2200/HF 2295) as incorporated in HF1684

Dear Chairs Hornstein and Newman, Representatives Koegel, Frederick, Elkins and Petersburg, and Senators Jasinski, Howe, Osmeck and Bigham:

The Minnesota Safety Council is a 96 year-old member-based, private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to preventing unintentional injuries - a leading cause of death, disability and economic loss. Most of our work centers on safety in the workplace and safety on our roads.

We urge your full support of the provisions in HF1684 to establish a pilot program to make work zones safer. Work zones in the right-of-way challenge both traffic and workplace safety. Working in the roadway is normally challenging but it has become even more challenging in recent years as the number of vehicles speeding through work zones has increased. The excessive speeds lead to more crashes and more times when a passing vehicle strays into the work zone. Across the country, a work zone crash happens every 5 ½ minutes, with 70 injuries a day and 12 fatalities a week. Imagine working under these conditions.

We believe the process and plan required by HF1684 to define the legal, resource and implementation needs for automated enforcement and other measures will lead to safer working conditions in work zones and improve traffic safety for each of us passing through a work zone.

Thank you for considering this legislation and for working to protect the women and men who work in the roadway.

Sincerely,

**Paul W. Aasen**  
President  
Minnesota Safety Council