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# Raising highway speed limit will increase crash fatalities

Oppose proposed legislation to raise highway speed limit

By Janet Patrick (Patch Poster) - (<https://patch.com/users/janet-patrick>) May 16, 2017 12:18 pm ET (<http://my.patch.com/article/27083134/edit>)

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The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) and the Highway Loss Data Institute (HLDI) have spent decades studying the effects of increased highway speeds, and the results are clear: Increased speed means increased fatalities.

Yet, Senate Bill 2036 is sponsored by more than 20 state legislators, Republican and Democrat alike. SB2036 proposes raising the speed limit on suburban and rural interstates from 70 miles per hour to 75 mph. Speed limits on urban interstates would go from 55mph to 60mph.

A dangerous culture of speeding already exists. More than half of drivers surveyed admit to driving 15 mph over the speed limit at least once in the past month. When you think about that behavior, it's no surprise that 37% of Illinois crash fatalities are a result of speeding. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Illinois is well ahead of the national rate of 28%. Raising Illinois' speed limits will only encourage this dangerous behavior.

We live in a world with physical realities and limits. Driver response time *decreases* as speed increases, and yet distractions continue; crash protections built into cars lose effectiveness at higher speeds; and as speed limits increase, the likelihood that drivers exceed the limit also increases.



### Trump Campaign Probe Now Criminal; Times Square Latest; Cabbie Saves Baby: Patch Morning Briefing

(<https://patch.com/illinois/aurora/s/g4lzy/trump-campaign-probe-now-criminal-times-square-latest-cabbie-saves-baby-patch-morning-briefing>)

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Some people say that raising the speed limit to match the speed people are driving is safer. That story defies physical reality, and it defies what is *known* by transportation officials, police, and the insurance industry.

Given what is *known* about driving behavior and Illinois' aging infrastructure, raising the posted speed limit to 75mph seems unethical – and a death sentence for more than 350 Illinoisans every year. For more information, see the National Safety Council's blog: *Speed kills: always has, always will.*

Encourage your state legislator to vote “no” on SB2036.