



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE • BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Robert Wunderlich, Mayor

September 10, 2021

The Honorable Laura Friedman
Assemblymember 43rd District
State Capitol, Room 6011
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: AB 43 (Freidman) Traffic Safety: Setting Speed Limits
City of Beverly Hills - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Friedman:

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to express the City's SUPPORT for AB 43, your bill to provide more tools to Caltrans and to local governments to reduce speeding on our streets and roads.

Years of national research, the laws of physics and common sense all point to an established fact about street safety: the faster people drive, the more dangerous and deadly our roads become. However, California state law, reflecting the so-called 85th percentile methodology, limits cities' ability to set safe vehicle speed limits on their most dangerous streets.

This law requires that, if as few as one in six drivers speed on a given street, then a city must raise the speed limit on that street. This law effectively sets speed limits based on drivers breaking the law, and it forces speed limits to match observed driver behavior, instead of bringing driver behavior in line with safety goals and the law. Raising speed limits to match the 85th percentile speed results in unintended consequences such as higher operating speeds than the road was originally designed for and can lead to traffic accidents with a higher rate of severe injuries or death.

AB 43 would implement several modest changes providing cities some additional flexibility under the 85th percentile statutes and offer similar flexibility to Caltrans when setting speed limits on state routes in line with the recent recommendations of the California State Transportation Agency's Zero Traffic Fatalities Task Force. These improvements to the 85th percentile method include granting local agencies additional flexibility to establish lower speed limits in areas and on defined types of streets where the most vulnerable road users are the most active, and where most traffic accidents occur.

AB 43 will serve as one more step towards the goal of achieving zero traffic fatalities. For these reasons, we strongly Support your AB 43.

Sincerely,

Robert Wunderlich

Robert Wunderlich, Mayor
City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange