



1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 4, 2016

The Honorable John W. Hickenlooper
Governor
State of Colorado
136 State Capitol Building
Denver, CO 80203-1792

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

We thank you for vetoing last year's legislation which would have removed power from municipalities to better ensure the safety of citizens, especially children, by using photo enforcement safety devices. Just as we did last year, we urge you to veto H1231.

We were hopeful when you vetoed the bill that the legislature would be respond to your very reasonable proposal on where red light safety cameras would be advantageous. Of course, our unique interest involves kids walking and biking around schools. It is unfortunate that the legislature did not heed your recommendations.

H1231 fails to provide exceptions to protect kids in school zones, workers in construction and road improvement areas nor in areas where evidence states that there are excessively high levels of pedestrian crashes, injuries and fatalities. Red light camera safety devices save lives because they calm traffic, lower speed, stop red light runners and reduce crashes. Safe Kids supports safety interventions based on evidence, and the data supports their success in saving lives. The safety systems have made roads and intersections safer. We know this from data from Colorado police departments:

- **Boulder:** 67.5% reduction in the number of collisions at eight photo-enforced intersections.
- **Greenwood Village:** 54% reduction in the number of collisions at the intersection of Belleview Avenue and Quebec Street.
- **Denver:** a 27% reduction in the number of collisions at four photo-enforced intersections. There was a 60% reduction in injury collisions, side impact collisions by 62% and total collisions by 38% at the intersection of Sixth Avenue and Lincoln Street.
- **Aurora:** a 26% reduction in the number of collisions at photo-enforced intersections in Aurora from 2010-2013.

The unpopularity of red light camera security devices is not unique to Colorado, and data demonstrates significant negative consequences when red light cameras get the red light.

- **Houston:** a 117% increase in collisions, from 4,100 to almost 9,000. There was a 30% increase in fatal crashes since safety cameras were turned off in 2010. One dangerous intersection saw crashes increase by 1,300%.

- **Albuquerque:** a 584% increase in speeding and red light running after five months.
- **Garfield Heights, Ohio:** a 214% increase in speeding after safety cameras were turned off.

In your veto message you cited data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) stating that 482 individuals died in Colorado crashes in 2013. In 2015, that number grew to 545 people, significantly above the 488 fatalities in 2014. That's a 13% increase from 2013. This exceeds the trend NHTSA is projecting for the nation: a 9.3 percent jump in traffic fatalities in 2015. This is no time to remove proven safety devices from our roads and highways.

Governor Hickenlooper, please veto H1231. Thank you for your efforts to make Colorado communities safer for kids.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Carr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Carr
President & CEO
Safe Kids Worldwide