

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 17, 2020

The Honorable David E. Price  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation, and  
Housing and Urban Development, and  
Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, and  
Housing and Urban Development, and  
Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart,

As you begin work on the Subcommittee's Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations bill, we request that you include report language on improving the interoperability of State Traffic Safety Information Systems under the National Priority Safety Programs (405 grant programs) authorized in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

The bipartisan FAST Act of 2015 and subsequent National Priority Safety Programs represent Congress's commitment to protecting the safety of travelers and pedestrians across the U.S. When the FAST Act became law, National Priority Safety Programs were enacted to reduce highway deaths and injuries. State Traffic Safety Information System Improvements, or 405(c) grants, receive 14.5 percent of 405 grant program funding to fund state efforts to improve state safety data, evaluate such improvements, link state data systems with other data systems within the state, improve compatibility and interoperability with national data systems and the data systems of other states, and enhance the Secretary of Transportation's ability to observe and analyze national trends.

Despite the statutory purpose of 405(c) grants, funding has not helped improve interoperability among states nor with national data systems. The lack of interoperability among these systems contributed to the loss of life on June 21, 2019. On that day, a Massachusetts driver collided with members of the Jarheads Motorcycle Club riding to a charity event in New Hampshire, killing five Marines and the partners of two members and injuring three others. The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) should have revoked this driver's license after being arrested for DUI in Connecticut 18 days prior to the crash, but the paper notice regarding his DUI from the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) went unopened. In fact, he was among thousands of Massachusetts drivers whose licenses should have been revoked after out-of-state notices were ignored by the RMV.

In an age when people receive notifications about the number of steps they have taken each day, DMVs and RMVs should not need to rely on paper notices to learn when a licensed driver has an out-of-state event that impact's his or her driving eligibility. As outlined under the purpose of 405(c) grants, the federal government should assist states in efforts to build interoperability among their core highway safety databases, and where possible, the federal government should help build capacity to digitally communicate out-of-state driving infractions with timeliness appropriate for the digital age.

For these reasons, we request the inclusion of the following report language:

**State Traffic Safety Information System Improvements.**—The Committee recognizes the potential dangers to drivers and pedestrians caused by the delays associated with mailed paper notices of out-of-state driving infractions. Funds appropriated under Section 405 of title 23 are intended to help states address interoperability among state data systems. To help meet the outlined purpose of this grant program, the Committee directs NHTSA to provide technical assistance to states on improving the interoperability of state and national traffic safety information systems, and, where possible, to build capacity for a transition to digital notifications.

We urge you to include this report language as recommended in the FY21 T-HUD Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



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SETH MOULTON  
*Member of Congress*

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RICHARD E. NEAL  
*Member of Congress*

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ANN MCLANE KUSTER  
*Member of Congress*

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LORI TRAHAN  
*Member of Congress*

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CHRIS PAPPAS  
*Member of Congress*

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AYANNA PRESSLEY  
*Member of Congress*