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Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committee on
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

SB 976 – Speed Monitoring Systems – School Zones – Hours and Days of Operation

Under current law, speed monitoring systems in a school zone may only operate from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; this simple bill repeals that limitation and allows speed monitoring systems to operate in school zones 24/7. The reason we have speed monitoring systems around schools to begin with is to vigorously deter reckless driving around our children. What we have to recognize is that schools are not just a hub for children when class is in session.

School zone speed cameras already operate over the Summer and on school holidays because large numbers of students still spend time in and around schools during those periods. But what our current regime fails to accommodate for is the student time in and around their schools on weekends and in the late evening on weekdays for athletics, community events and other activities. We must strengthen and extend our reckless driving deterrence regime in school zones to reflect this reality.

There have been several high-profile and horrific pedestrian incidents involving children around schools in and around my district, and there are many more across the State every year. While the facts of those cases don't always specifically relate to speeding in a school zone, it is clear that we need to do all we can to encourage safe and responsible driving around our schools.

To protect our children and promote public safety, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 976.