



Chair Marc Korman  
and Members, Environment and Transportation Committee  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 29, 2024

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

My name is Dan Reed and I serve as the Regional Policy Director for [Greater Greater Washington](#), a nonprofit that works to advance racial, economic, and environmental justice in land use, transportation, and housing throughout Greater Washington. GGWash supports House Bill 612, which will remove the requirement for an engineering and traffic study before reducing speed limits.

I live near the intersection of Sligo Avenue and Piney Branch Road in Silver Spring. Almost a year ago, on December 23, 2022, a 22-year-old driver lost control and crashed, killing himself and injuring his two passengers<sup>1</sup>. I cross these streets multiple times a day with my dog, and each time I walk past the demolished brick retaining wall that the car crashed into. It's a reminder that one day I could be next. I know lots of places like this, where someone, occasionally someone I know personally, was injured or lost their life due to their actions or the actions of someone else behind the wheel of a car.

Requiring a study in order to reduce a speed limit will only increase the likelihood that another tragedy occurs. This bill will ensure that we can respond quickly. A lower speed limit is just the first step to making a street safer, but an important one. We ask the Environment and Transportation Committee to give this bill a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dan Reed'.

Dan Reed  
Regional Policy Director  
Greater Greater Washington

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sourceofthespring.com/silver-spring-news/2801415/police-investigating-piney-branch-rd-fatal-collision/>

The Washington, DC region is great and it can be greater.