



July 22, 2019

Representative Chris Smith
Member
United States House of Representatives
2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Thomas R. Suozzi
Member
United States House of Representatives
214 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 3262 – Sami’s Law

Dear Representative Smith and Representative Suozzi,

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and the public officials we represent, we appreciate your efforts to address an important area of public safety. The stories of Samantha Josephson and other individuals whose lives were cut too short are truly heartbreaking.

Our organizations support a continued federal role in helping to set certain transportation safety goals, and we agree that such programs should be expanded to incorporate emerging safety issues in order to promote a comprehensive suite of programs in the states, while respecting state sovereignty.

However, we strongly oppose the use of federal sanctions or redirection penalties to enforce federal safety standards. We urge you to make significant changes to section 2 “Sanctions for States Without Transportation Network Company Vehicle Identification Laws,” which could result in the loss of billions of dollars in state federal highway aid every year. One alternative approach could be to incentivize states to achieve the outcomes sought in section 2 in order to promote state action on this issue while ensuring and adhering to principles of federalism.

It is no secret that the United States faces a host of unmet infrastructure needs. States have worked to address this problem by raising tens of billions of dollars in new funding over the past half-decade with nearly 30 states increasing their motor fuels tax rate to increase revenues for infrastructure. But work still remains. States work hand in hand with the federal government to ensure a national surface transportation system that facilitates interstate commerce, addresses fairly and equally the mobility needs of all Americans, and meets national defense needs. The potential loss of billions in federal funding every year would almost assuredly result in a less safe

transportation system, leading to a rise in additional motor vehicle traffic fatalities, seemingly the opposite goal of your bill.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff to continue to move the conversation forward. Please contact NCSL staff Ben Husch (ben.husch@ncsl.org) or AASHTO staff Joung Lee (jlee@aaashto.org) to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,



Tim Storey
Executive Director
National Conference of State Legislatures



Jim Tymon
Executive Director
American Association of State Highway and
Transportation Officials

cc: Representative Joe Wilson, Representative Albio Sires, Representative Jefferson Van Drew, Representative Josh Gottheimer, Representative Brian Babin, Representative Jim Hagedorn, Representative Peter T. King, Representative Donald M. Payne, Representative Jose E. Serrano, Representative Elise M. Stefanik, Representative Gregory W. Steube, Representative Ron Wright, Representative Daniel Lipinski, and all other members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure