



AAA-The Auto Club Group
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January 28, 2021

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Representative Dan Ruby
State Capitol
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505

Chairman Ruby and Members of the House Transportation Committee,

On behalf of AAA-The Auto Club Group with nearly 70,000 members in North Dakota, I respectfully ask you to oppose HB 1257. This legislation, removes the requirement for seat belt use by adults, sends the wrong message to vehicle occupants, runs counter to the state's Vision Zero Plan, and will ultimately lead to an unnecessary loss of life.

As a matter of policy, AAA supports use of safety belts by all motor vehicle occupants including:

- Enforcement of the safety belt use requirements as a primary rather than secondary traffic offense.
- There should be a reasonable fine established, certainly no higher than that imposed for the ordinary traffic infraction.
- Exemption should be made for certain persons who cannot or should not use safety belts.
- Exemption should be made for in-use vehicles that, at the time of manufacture, did not contain safety belt systems.

AAA also recognizes that compliance with all occupant protection laws requires ongoing enforcement and support of the public and lawmakers. In order to keep unnecessary traffic deaths to a minimum and to keep North Dakota on a trend toward zero roadway deaths, I ask you to give HB 1257 a "Do Not Pass" recommendation.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene LaDoucer".

Gene LaDoucer
Public Affairs Director

AAA-The Auto Club Group (ACG) is a membership based, non-profit corporation operating in fourteen states and two US Territories. It is one of the largest American Automobile Association (AAA) clubs in the United States with approximately 14 million members. ACG provides travel, insurance, automotive, and financial services to its members. In North Dakota, AAA – The Auto Club Group serves more than 69,000 members and works to represent the interests of members and the traveling public in the state legislature.