

Subject: Urgent Legislative Action Needed: Reckless Driving Accountability & Ending Diversion for Fatal and Severe Injury Cases

Dear [Title and Last Name],

My name is [Your Name], and I am a resident of [City/District]. I am writing to urge you to take immediate legislative action to strengthen accountability for reckless driving that results in fatalities and severe injuries.

Across California, families are devastated by preventable crashes caused by excessive speeding, reckless behavior, and blatant disregard for human life. Yet under current law, individuals who cause death or catastrophic injury can still access diversion programs designed for low-level, non-violent offenses. When diversion is granted in cases involving fatal or life-altering harm, it sends a dangerous message: that killing or permanently injuring someone with a vehicle may be treated as a mistake rather than a serious crime.

This undermines public safety and erodes confidence in our justice system.

Reckless driving that results in death or severe bodily injury is not a minor lapse in judgment. It is conduct that demonstrates conscious disregard for the safety of others. Vehicles in such cases become deadly weapons. When the consequences are permanent and irreversible, accountability must be meaningful and proportionate.

I respectfully request that you sponsor or support legislation that would:

1. **Explicitly prohibit diversion programs** in cases where reckless driving results in death or great bodily injury.
2. **Clarify statutory language** to ensure that courts cannot treat these cases as minor traffic matters when the harm is catastrophic.
3. **Strengthen sentencing guidelines** to reflect the seriousness of preventable vehicular violence and ensure consistent application across jurisdictions.
4. **Prioritize deterrence and public safety** as core legislative intent in vehicular homicide and reckless injury statutes.

Diversion programs may have a place for truly minor, non-harm offenses. They do not belong in cases where families are burying loved ones or where survivors face lifelong disabilities.

Clear legislative boundaries are necessary to restore deterrence. Without meaningful consequences, we create a permissive environment where dangerous driving behavior continues unchecked.

No parent, child, or pedestrian should lose their life because the law failed to draw a firm line.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your staff to discuss this issue and share additional information. I urge you to act decisively to protect your constituents and uphold the value of human life.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
[Your Full Name]
[Your Address]
[City, State, ZIP]
[Email]
[Phone]
