

Date

Dear Elected Official:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Mark Wandall Traffic Safety Act and red-light safety camera programs throughout the state of Florida.

Florida set a course in 2010 to improve safety for all drivers across our state with the passage of the Mark Wandall Traffic Safety Act. This lifesaving legislation allows communities to install and operate red-light safety cameras under uniform practices. The results to date are impressive, consistent and widely documented, and yet, an obsessive push continues against this important law.

This year, NAME BILL(S) are the proposals that threaten the Wandall Act. I respectfully ask you to do all you can to defeat NAME BILL(S), or similar legislation that would undermine the effective use of photo enforcement to deter red-light running.

As the state with the third highest number of red-light running fatalities in the past five years, according to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Florida's drivers, their passengers and all road users cannot afford to lose red-light cameras. Consider:

- The latest annual review of red-light camera programs by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FDHSMV, Dec. 31, 2016) found red-light running crashes decreased more than 3% at intersections with cameras even though total crashes statewide rose 33%.
- All intersection type crashes measured in the 2016 report are significantly lower than the 33% increase in crashes statewide, ranging from 6% below statewide average to 55% lower than the statewide average; even though crash counts were higher this year due to refined reporting methodology.
- The 2016 report found a 20% decrease in red-light running related crashes involving non-motorists.
- Fatal red-light running related crashes in Florida decreased 33% from 76 in 2011 to 51 in 2015, according to the National Center for Statistical Analysis, an office of NHTSA. Over the same time period, total fatal crashes in our state increased 22% from 2,214 to 2,699, according to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. There can be no doubt, red-light safety cameras are making intersections safer.
- In the previous FDHSMV report released Jan. 7, 2016, the analysis showed the chances of being involved in a crash to be 36% less likely at an intersection with a red-light safety camera than at an intersection without a red-light safety camera.
- In 2014, that the Florida Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability announced a 49% decrease in fatal crashes at red-light safety camera intersections on state roads in 2014, saving an estimated 18 lives.

Along with these strong findings, there are also fiscal and common sense reasons to support red-light safety cameras. A 2011 report by AAA quantified the cost to a community for one fatal collision to be \$6 million in workplace, medical, property damage, emergency services and other costs; that amount rises to more than \$6.8 million in 2017 when adjusting for inflation. Florida's 63 red-light running fatalities in 2015 amounted to more than \$415 million. Clearly, these positives make common sense.

We cannot forget that a serious risk accompanies the decision to end a red-light safety camera program. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reported in 2016 that fatal red-light running crashes increased 30% in cities that turned off their camera programs, but cities that kept their red-light safety cameras in operation experienced a 21% decrease in fatal red-light running crashes. I hope you will agree that the Wandall Act is saving lives.

Finally, I ask you to keep in mind that local law enforcement agencies often lack the personnel to adequately provide the consistent enforcement presence necessary to reduce frequent infractions at signalized intersections. Red-light cameras provide the same service but allow law enforcement to prioritize other work. This lifesaving technology enlarges a community's law enforcement agency at no cost to taxpayers.

With all respect, I urge you to do all you can to support the Mark Wandall Traffic Safety Act and Florida's red-light safety camera programs. Every time a crash is prevented, a person and their family is saved from needless heartache. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,