



Healthy Community Lifespaces

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To All Members of the Pennsylvania State Senate:

Subject: Request for School-Zone Speed Cameras and Clear Statewide Safety/Disclosure Requirements for E-Scooters (Without Legalizing Them)

I am writing as a parent, Safe Routes to School advocate, and community health organizer to request your leadership on two critical transportation safety issues:

- Authorize automated speed enforcement in clearly marked school zones, and
- Require point-of-sale safety warnings for e-scooters without in any way legalizing them for road or sidewalk use.

Both requests support child safety, disability access, and compliance with Local School Wellness Policy requirements (7 CFR §210.31).

1. Pennsylvania Needs School-Zone Speed Cameras — Traditional Methods Don't Work

Research from the **University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center** shows:

- School-zone signs, flashing beacons, police presence, and education **do not reduce speeding**, even when used together.
- **85–95% of drivers** continue to exceed posted school-zone limits.
- Drivers “normalize” signage and resume speeding as soon as officers leave.

UNC's automated enforcement pilots demonstrated:

- large and sustained reductions in speeding
- decline in extreme-speed (“high injury”) violations
- long-term behavioral change
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Philadelphia's Automated Speed Enforcement program confirmed these findings with a substantial drop in serious crashes.

Meanwhile, Pennsylvania prohibits automated speed enforcement in school zones—despite allowing it for school buses under **Act 159**. This inconsistency leaves children unprotected as they walk and bike to school and along Act-34-funded paths.



2. Require Statewide Point-of-Sale Warnings for E-Scooters (Still Illegal Under Title 75)

E-scooters remain **illegal** for operation on Pennsylvania roads and sidewalks except through a limited pilot. Yet retailers market them aggressively to children without disclosing the risks or illegality.

Documented Injury & Death Risk

National trauma and CPSC studies show e-scooters have:

- very high head-injury and fracture rates
- internal injuries and fatal vehicle impacts
- instability due to small wheels and rapid acceleration
- serious risks for children lacking judgment and reaction-time development

Safety organizations agree:

- **E-scooters are not intended for children under 16.**
- **Parents are being misled.**

Retailers do not disclose:

- illegality of street/sidewalk use
- injury/death risk
- age-appropriateness
- lack of standardized safety requirements

Attorney General + Legislative Authority

Under the UTPCPL, the Attorney General *can* require safety disclosures for failure to disclose material facts. However, the AG has not issued guidance, and legislative action is needed for standardized statewide requirements.

3. REQUIRED SAFEGUARD: Explicit Statutory Language to Prevent Unintended “Legalization”

This must be included in any bill:

Section X. Clarification of Scooter Prohibition

(a) *Nothing in this act authorizes or legalizes the operation of electric stand-up scooters on any public roadway, sidewalk, or right-of-way.*

(b) *The prohibition on operation under Title 75 remains in full force and is not modified by this*



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act.

(c) Helmet requirements or warning labels shall not be construed as granting permission to operate e-scooters anywhere that operation is otherwise prohibited by law.

This protects children, prevents retailer misrepresentation, and avoids public confusion.

4. Legislative Requests

I respectfully ask the General Assembly to:

1. Authorize automated school-zone speed enforcement statewide.

With due-process, signage, and revenue dedicated to local safety.

2. Require point-of-sale warnings for e-scooters stating:

- Illegal to operate on PA roads/sidewalks
- Documented risk of severe injury and death
- Not intended for children under 16
- This warning does **not** imply legalization
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3. Include explicit non-legalization language (above) to prevent misinterpretation.

4. Support cross-agency alignment with PennDOT and PDE to strengthen Safe Routes to School and school-zone safety.

Thank you for your consideration. I welcome the opportunity to provide additional research and discuss this further.

In collaboration to promote communities that create a lasting healthspan,

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Have a happy, healthy day!