



May 19, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

On behalf of the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA), I write to express our support for the bipartisan surface transportation reauthorization proposal, the Building Unrivaled Infrastructure and Long-term Development (BUILD) for America's 250th Act. We appreciate your leadership in advancing legislation that modernizes the federal highway safety grant program and strengthens the ability of states to address the nation's most pressing roadway safety challenges.

The Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) is a national nonprofit association representing the State and territorial Highway Safety Offices (SHSOs). The SHSOs receive highway traffic safety grants from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to implement behavioral highway safety programs.

Traffic crashes remain one of the leading causes of preventable death in the United States, claiming more than 40,000 lives and injuring another 2.4 million people each year. According to NHTSA, unsafe driver behavior contributes to the overwhelming majority of these crashes. Continued investment in effective behavioral safety programs are essential to reversing these trends and saving lives.

GHSA particularly appreciates the proposal to combine the Sections 402 and 405 grants into a single, unified State Highway Safety Grant Program. This approach would provide states with greater flexibility to make data driven investments focused on achieving measurable safety outcomes and remove existing barriers to working with local communities.

GHSA has long advocated for reforms that allow SHSOs to implement more holistic Safe System-centered programs, reduce unnecessary administrative complexity and better align federal funding with on-the-ground safety needs. By breaking down funding silos and simplifying program administration, this proposal would help states spend less time navigating process and more time implementing strategies that save lives.

We appreciate the Committee's bipartisan commitment to improving roadway safety and urge Congress to advance this legislation before the current surface transportation programs expire on

September 30, 2026. GHSA looks forward to continuing to work with the Committee as the process moves forward.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Adkins". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jonathan Adkins  
Chief Executive Officer  
Governors Highway Safety Association