



May 18, 2021

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chair
House Committee on Science, Space, &
Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
House Committee on Science, Space, &
Technology
H2-394 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20002

RE: Surface Transportation Research and Development Act of 2021

Dear Chair Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas:

Thank you for the opportunity to share a statement with the House Science Committee regarding the Surface Transportation Research and Development Act of 2021. GHSAs thanks the committee for introducing this important bipartisan legislation to support federal highway transportation research.

The Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSAs) is a national nonprofit association representing the State and Territorial Highway Safety Offices, which implement statewide programs to address behavioral highway safety issues. The mission of GHSAs and its State members is the safety of everyone on the road.

GHSAs commends the committee for its strong support of the Behavioral Traffic Safety Cooperative Research Program (BTSCRPs) and its proposal to ensure an ongoing, elevated level of funding. BTSCRPs is a partnership between the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Transportation Research Board and GHSAs and is the only federal research program to focus exclusively on behavioral highway safety challenges. The program has currently established 19 research projects to advance the state of knowledge on issues such as distracted driving, traffic enforcement, teen driver safety, micromobility, and highway safety planning and communications. More information about the program is available at www.trb.org/BTSCRPs/BTSCRPs.aspx.

Traffic deaths remain a persistent public health crisis in our country. In 2019, 36,096 Americans were killed on our roads and preliminary estimates suggest that fatalities increased dramatically in 2020. GHSAs remains committed to investing in research to develop practical, ready-to-implement solutions to prevent unsafe driving.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective, and we look forward to our ongoing partnership with the U.S. Congress to create new solutions to save lives on our nation's roads.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles R. DeWeese". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Chuck DeWeese
Chair, Governors Highway Safety Association
Assistant Commissioner, New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee