

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 18, 2019

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman Shepherd, Representatives Gestrin, Kauffman, Youngblood, Dixon, Harris, Holtzclaw, Monks, DeMordaunt, Syme, Blanksma, Addis, Ricks, Wintrow, Gannon, Davis, Rubel

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) DeMordaunt, Ricks

GUESTS: Mary Symms, Cascade Student Transportation; Daniel Sperry, Makayla's Story; Matthew Conde, AAA; Francoise Cleveland, AARP-Idaho; Erin Bennett, AHA - ASA

Chairman Palmer called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Gannon** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2019, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1131aa: **Rep. Kauffman** presented **S 1131aa**. This bill amends Idaho Code to deter injuries/fatalities at school bus stops by increasing fines for offending drivers. A portion of the funds collected in fines will be used to purchase stop arm cameras to capture photos of offending drivers.

MOTION: **Rep. Wintrow** made a motion to send **S 1131aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Mary Symms, Meridian resident and school bus driver, testified **in support of S 1131aa**. She maintained there are three layers to the issue of drivers illegally passing school buses: motorists are not obeying the law, violators are not being identified, and the law is not being enforced. She said students who ride in school buses are most vulnerable when they are outside the bus in the "danger zone". Drivers in Idaho have increased the frequency of passing school buses during the boarding and disembarking of children. The current deployment of flashing lights and stop arms is not effective enough. Increasing the fines for this infraction will be a notable deterrent against unsafe driving behavior. Her opinion is increased fines and the use of stop arm cameras to identify offending drivers will result in safer conditions for school children.

Daniel Sperry, Bonneville County Deputy Sheriff spoke, **in support of S 1131aa**. He is a School Resource Officer who investigates stop arm violations. Officer Sperry reported School District 93 in Idaho Falls uses cameras on school bus stop arms. This has resulted in reduced violations. In answer to questions, he advised the committee to think of a bus as a stop light or stop sign. He added, his daughter was tragically killed when a motorist failed to stop for her school bus.

Matthew Conde, AAA, spoke **in support** of the bill. He said a national survey has shown camera use on stop arms reduces violations. When **S 1131aa** passes, AAA will do their part on the public awareness side.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:**

Chairman Palmer called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1131aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Kauffman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Joyce McKenzie
Secretary