

Authority Health Statement on HB 4733

Authority Health, through its MOTION Coalition on childhood obesity, advocates for active living and healthy eating. Active living involves creating safe, public spaces for exercise. Roadway motor vehicle traffic is a risk for people who wish to walk, run, and cycle on neighborhood streets in the best of circumstances. Increasing the speed limit based exclusively on the 85 percentile indicator will increase risk and reduce the inclination of people to use public spaces for exercises. The increase in traffic collisions during COVID-19 is a result of motorists traveling at higher speeds, according to the Michigan State Police.

We agree with the Detroit Greenways Coalition that HB 4733 would clarify the law to ensure there is modest flexibility when setting safer speed limits on state county, and local roads. Traffic safety initiatives in pedestrian areas should limit speed limits to allow for safe spaces for the public to exercise.

Loretta V. Bush, MHSA President & CEO Authority Health