

Testimony of Senator David G. Argall (R-Schuylkill/Berks)
Senate Transportation Committee & House Transportation Committee
Joint Public Hearing: Enhancing the Safety of Highway Workers, Drivers and Pedestrians
July 14, 2015 | 9:30 a.m.
North Office Building, Hearing Room No. 1

Thank you Chairman Rafferty, Chairman Wozniak and members of the committee. We appreciate your leadership to review work zone safety.

Our legislation would set-up automated speed enforcement systems, or speed cameras, on Interstate highways in active work zones.

Over the last few months, several accidents have occurred within work zones in Pennsylvania. According to preliminary data from PennDOT, in 2014, 24 people lost their lives in work zone crashes, an increase of eight from 2013. The data also indicates 1,841 crashes in work zone areas in 2014.

In May, Holly Doppel of Berks County emailed Senator Schwank and me about our efforts to strengthen safety in work zones. She referenced a fatal accident on the morning of May 2 near Bensalem on the Turnpike that claimed the life of a motorist and sent four construction workers to the hospital. Holly's youngest son was working with the Bensalem crew that was involved in the accident, but left at 1 a.m. The accident occurred at 5:30 a.m.

She offered her support for our legislation which aims to protect workers, like her son, from any life-altering situations due to reckless driving and excessive speeding.

These men and women dedicate their time and effort towards improving Pennsylvania's infrastructure each and every day so that motorists can arrive to and from their destinations safely and efficiently.

It is our responsibility to protect them.