

Faces from the 4,500-plus innocent bystanders killed since 1982.



Kristin Saragusa
Kansas



Steven Ehrensperger
Alabama



Paul Farris
Massachusetts



Maggie & Linsay Lunsford
North Carolina



Kristie Priano
California



Isaac Brown
Arkansas

PursuitSAFETY is a national nonprofit organization founded to save lives and help the innocent: injured victims and bereaved families touched by the tragedy of pursuit.

April 5, 2010

Rep. James Cantwell
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
4th Plymouth District
63 Flames Road
Marshfield, MA 02050

Sen. Robert L. Hedlund
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House
Room 313-C
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable James Cantwell & The Honorable Robert Hedlund:

Re: HB 4462, An Act Relative to Motor Vehicle Police Chases — SUPPORT

Please add Voices Insisting on PursuitSAFETY to the list of supporters for House Bill 4462. I also thank you in advance for distributing this letter to the legislative members of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PursuitSAFETY is a national nonprofit organization. We assist families of innocent bystanders by helping injured victims and bereaved families with the support they need. On average, police chases kill at least three innocent bystanders every week in the United States. We seek improved officer pursuit training and supervision as well as pursuit policies that strike an appropriate balance between (a) apprehending drivers who flee and (b) ensuring public safety to prevent police officers and innocent bystanders from being needlessly killed or maimed as a result of unnecessary police chases.

We encourage legislation aimed at increasing penalties for fleeing an officer, just as you are now proposing in Massachusetts with HB 4462. We respectfully submit the following change in Section 41:

Whoever knowingly operates a motor vehicle on a street, road, alley, or highway in this state, to intentionally flee or attempt to elude a law enforcement officer after having received a signal from the officer to bring the vehicle to a stop shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not less than 2 1/2 years ~~or~~ and a fine not to exceed \$5,000.

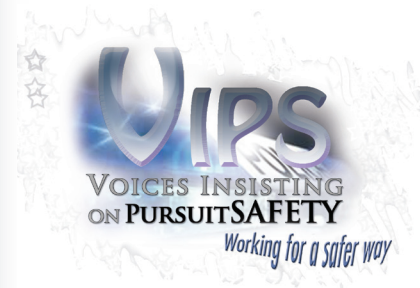
PursuitSAFETY's Legislative Committee also asks The Commonwealth to ensure, for the express purpose of public safety, that this measure cannot now be used as a reason to justify a pursuit or to rationalize continuing a higher-risk chase. Legislators need to encourage law enforcement to use other resources available to officers to capture drivers who flee.

Sincerely,

Candy Priano
Executive Director

cc: Jonathan Farris

www.pursuitsafety.org



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