

PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE

TESTIMONY

AGGRESSIVE DRIVING IN PHILADELPHIA

APRIL 7, 2026



Good morning, Chairman Argall, Vice Chairman Picozzi, and members of the Senate Republican Policy Committee. The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) appreciate the opportunity to provide a perspective on the problem of aggressive driving along the Interstate 95 and Interstate 76 corridors in the Philadelphia region. These roadways are among the most heavily traveled in the Commonwealth and have become increasingly dangerous due to reckless and aggressive driving behavior.

From an enforcement standpoint, aggressive driving is no longer limited to isolated incidents of speeding. Troopers routinely encounter excessive speeds well above posted limits, unsafe lane changes, tailgating, disregard for traffic control devices, and an increasing willingness by drivers to use highway shoulders as travel lanes. These behaviors are often compounded by distracted driving and, in some cases, impaired operation. The result is a high-risk environment where a single poor decision can, and frequently does, lead to serious injury or loss of life.

Data trends and patrol experience both point to the same conclusion, that aggressive driving has become more normalized. Troopers assigned to these corridors are responding to drivers who demonstrate a disregard for

both traffic laws and the presence of law enforcement. Repeat offenders are common, and the deterrent effect of traditional enforcement measures has diminished for a subset of drivers who view citations as a manageable consequence rather than a meaningful penalty.

The impact on public safety is immediate and severe. Crashes involving aggressive driving behaviors tend to occur at higher speeds, increasing the likelihood of fatalities and catastrophic injuries. Just as concerning is the risk posed to responding troopers. Conducting traffic stops or assisting disabled vehicles along I-95 and I-76 places troopers within feet of fast-moving traffic, where inattentive or reckless drivers can turn a routine enforcement action into a life-threatening situation. In 2025, PSP responded to 64 crashes that occurred in work zones in Philadelphia County which further shows the dangers on these highways are not limited to law enforcement but also Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and other roadway workers as well.

From a resource perspective, enforcement in these corridors is both personnel-intensive and strategically complex. Troopers must balance proactive enforcement with crash response, often in high-volume traffic

conditions that limit safe opportunities for stops. While targeted enforcement initiatives have demonstrated localized success, sustained impact requires consistent visibility and the ability to address repeat and high-risk offenders effectively.

Technology has become an increasingly important component of enforcement. Tools such as automated license plate readers assist in identifying vehicles associated with repeated violations or other criminal activity. However, technology alone cannot replace the need for visible enforcement presence and meaningful consequences that reinforce lawful driving behavior.

Prosecution also plays a critical role in shaping driver behavior. Situations where aggressive driving incidents result in outcomes that do not reflect the seriousness of the conduct, particularly for repeat offenders, may lead to continued illegal driving behaviors. Consistency in the handling of these cases is essential to restoring the deterrent value of enforcement.

Aggressive driving in the Philadelphia region is not merely a traffic issue; it is a public safety issue. Addressing it requires a clear commitment to

accountability, sustained enforcement efforts, and a recognition that dangerous driving behaviors have real and often irreversible consequences.

The PSP remains committed to protecting the motoring public and ensuring that our highways are safe for all who travel them. We appreciate the Committee's attention to this issue and stand ready to assist in any efforts to improve roadway safety across the Commonwealth.