



February 12, 2024

Dear Members of the Senate Transportation and Energy Committee, ,

On behalf of the Denver Task Force to Reimagine Policing and Public Safety and the Denver Streets Partnership **we are writing to express our opposition to SB24-065, Mobile Electronic Devices And Motor Vehicle Driving. We agree that distracted driving is a serious safety concern, but cannot support policies that lead with enforcement, as this one does.** We believe that this legislation creates opportunities for over policing and inequitable enforcement of the law.

The Denver Task Force to Reimagine Policing and Public Safety formed in 2020 in response to the George Floyd protests as a community-led initiative to develop a comprehensive and sustainable community-based approach to policing and public safety. The Task Force collaborated with experts, activists, and city officials to develop [112 recommendations](#) in the spirit of reimagining a public safety model that fundamentally prevents, reduces, and heals harm. One overarching strategy in the recommendations is to minimize unnecessary interaction of law enforcement and the criminal legal system with the community. While we assume best intentions, this bill is counter to that strategy and could contribute to more racial profiling and unnecessary traffic stops, which opens the door to violence, particularly for people of color, as we've seen time and time again across the country.

We acknowledge the steps that bill sponsors have taken to improve this bill over time, like including the requirement for data collection and annual reporting. We agree that data is helpful in evaluating the impact of policies, however, **data collection and evaluation does not prevent racial profiling and unnecessary traffic stops.** Further, there is limited evidence that policies like this one actually reduce distracted driving and improve safety.

While we remain concerned about the safety impacts of distracted driving, especially as traffic fatalities remain on the rise in our state, we are opposed to this bill. We are exploring a variety of policy changes at the local and state levels to address unsafe driving behavior and traffic violence that do not rely on direct policing and encourage you to do the same. We would be happy to discuss opportunities that do not rely on increased police enforcement to make Colorado's roadways safer for everyone.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Davis, Project Coordinator, Denver Task Force to Reimagine Policing and Public Safety

Jill Locantore, Executive Director, Denver Streets Partnership