



SR0816

LRB104 22045 RMO 38130 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are deeply
3 saddened by the tragic death of Marko Niketic, whose life was
4 taken far too soon on Mother's Day 2024; and

5 WHEREAS, Marko Niketic, only six weeks shy of his 18th
6 birthday and just days away from his senior graduation and
7 prom, was widely admired for his strength, perseverance,
8 kindness, and positive spirit, serving as an inspiration to
9 many throughout Illinois and beyond; and

10 WHEREAS, On May 12, 2024, Marko Niketic was tragically
11 killed shortly after leaving his residence to drive his
12 girlfriend home following a Mother's Day spent with their
13 mothers; and

14 WHEREAS, The crash was allegedly caused by an individual
15 operating a motor vehicle while impaired, traveling at speeds
16 exceeding 150 miles per hour on the expressway and
17 approximately 122 miles per hour at the time of impact, while
18 also allegedly recording himself during the incident, in a
19 collision so close to Marko's home that his parents heard the
20 crash occur; and

21 WHEREAS, The dangerous driving behavior commonly referred

1 to as "ghosting" involves operating a motor vehicle at
2 excessive speeds, often 100 miles per hour or more above the
3 posted speed limit, while driving at night without vehicle
4 lights illuminated, disregarding public safety and creating an
5 extreme risk of catastrophic injury or death to motorists,
6 pedestrians, and others on the roadway; and

7 WHEREAS, The growing use of recording, live streaming, and
8 social media to promote reckless and dangerous driving conduct
9 has amplified the danger by incentivizing increasingly extreme
10 behavior for attention, entertainment, or notoriety; and

11 WHEREAS, The tragic loss of Marko Niketic has heightened
12 public concern regarding impaired driving, extreme reckless
13 driving, and social media-driven dangerous driving behaviors
14 on Illinois roadways; and

15 WHEREAS, It is important for the Illinois General Assembly
16 to recognize the need to strengthen public safety protections,
17 modernize criminal penalties, and deter dangerous conduct that
18 places innocent motorists, pedestrians, and families at risk,
19 while ensuring consequences proportionate to the devastating
20 harm caused; and

21 WHEREAS, It is important for Illinois to evaluate
22 opportunities to strengthen penalties for impaired driving and

1 extreme reckless driving offenses that result in serious
2 bodily injury or death, including offenses involving speeds
3 100 miles per hour or more above the posted speed limit,
4 driving on shoulders or in other prohibited areas, operating a
5 vehicle without headlights during nighttime hours, and
6 recording or disseminating such conduct through social media;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, It is important for legislators in Illinois to
9 recognize the importance of improving coordination among
10 transportation agencies, law enforcement, prosecutors, and
11 public safety officials to address dangerous driving behaviors
12 and prevent future tragedies; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Illinois
15 Department of Transportation, the Office of the Secretary of
16 State, the Illinois State Police, local law enforcement
17 agencies, prosecutors, traffic safety organizations, and other
18 relevant public safety stakeholders to review and strengthen
19 policies, enforcement strategies, public awareness efforts,
20 and sentencing guidelines related to impaired driving, extreme
21 reckless driving, social media-driven dangerous driving, and
22 "ghosting"; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That we encourage continued consideration of

1 legislative and policy reforms intended to ensure Illinois law
2 appropriately addresses severe reckless driving conduct,
3 including instances involving speeds 100 miles per hour or
4 more above the posted speed limit, driving on shoulders or
5 other prohibited areas, operating a vehicle without headlights
6 at night, recording or promoting dangerous driving conduct
7 through social media, and impaired operation of a motor
8 vehicle resulting in catastrophic injury or loss of life, with
9 consequences proportionate to the harm inflicted upon victims,
10 families, and communities; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
12 delivered to the Governor of Illinois, the Secretary of State,
13 the Director of the Illinois Department of Transportation, the
14 Director of the Illinois State Police, and the family of Marko
15 Niketic as a symbol of remembrance and the Illinois Senate's
16 commitment to improving roadway safety throughout the State.