

## SENATE RESOLUTION #2964

**TITLE:** Support for an Increase of Safety Measures on U.S. Highway 287

**DATE INTRODUCED:** 03/25/2024

**AUTHOR:** Senators Hennigar, Schliebe and Director of Community and Governmental Affairs Bouma

**SPONSORS:** President Murfitt; Senators Gomelsky, Grimm, Keasling, Langford, Relaford, Saint, Slattery, Knull, Brown; First-Year Senators Hargett, Shosh; Student-At-Large Tanner Ewalt, Michelle Lake, Darrah Short, Grant Dillivan, Eva Allred; The Advocacy, Diversity, & Policy Committee; Homecoming, Outreach, Programming, and Elections Committee; Traditions and Student Outreach Committee; Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Alpha Phi Sorority

1. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
2. (ASUW) is to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible; and,
3. WHEREAS, ASUW has a duty to advocate, protect, and serve University of Wyoming
4. students in the best manner possible; and,
5. WHEREAS, on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 University of Wyoming students Carson Muir,
6. Charlie Clark, and Luke Slabber “all lost their lives in a single-vehicle crash at the
7. intersection of Highway 287 and Red Mountain Road, northwest of Livermore in Larimer
8. County, Colorado and two other members of the swim team almost lost their lives in the
9. same accident”; and,
10. WHEREAS, in September 2001, “eight members of UW’s cross-country team – Kevin
11. Salverson, Justice Lambert-Belanger, Cody Brown, Kyle Johnson, Joshua Jones, Morgan
12. McLeland, Nicholas Schabron, and Shane Shatto” lost their lives on Highway 287; and,
13. WHERAS, Ruben Narcisse lost his life in 2010 on U.S. Highway 287; and,
14. WHEREAS, in February 2021, three UW Students, Sienna Potter, Rebecca Marley, and
15. William Malone lost their lives on Highway 287; and,
16. WHEREAS, Highway 287 has received over 570 crashes, 15 of them being fatal, in the
17. past five years; and,
18. WHEREAS, As seen in Addendum A “portions of Highway 287 have above average
19. crash rates”, emphasizing the need for future safety improvements; and,
20. WHEREAS, improvement and expansion of these safety standards may decrease deaths
21. on U.S. Highway 287 between Laramie and Fort Collins; and,
22. WHEREAS, it is well known that this road is considered to be one of the most dangerous
23. in the area due to the weather conditions constantly experienced by region and due to the
24. mountainous terrain; and,

25. WHEREAS, the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) has been consulted and  
26. expressed their support of this legislation, as seen in Addendum C; and,  
27. WHEREAS, as seen in Addendum D, the ASUW also strongly encourages students to  
28. wear their seatbelts seeing the good work they do to keep people safe; and,  
29. WHEREAS, as seen in Addendum G, Chairman of the Colorado Student Government  
30. Desalvo sponsors this resolution.  
31. THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming  
32. honors the lives lost and announces support and care to all those affected by these  
33. crashes and deaths on Highway 287; and,  
34. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that ASUW advocates and encourages for an  
35. increase of safety measures on Highway 287, including but not limited to guard rails,  
36. increase in law enforcement and patrol, increase in visibility through lighting equipment,  
37. camera surveillance, and more; and,  
38. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW continues to encourage members of  
39. the student body to sign any petitions surrounding the above safety measures in order to  
40. ensure the wellbeing of all students and community members that drive U.S. Highway  
41. 287; and,  
42. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to all Colorado  
43. and Wyoming college student governments upon passage of this resolution; and,  
44. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the  
45. Wyoming State Legislature, Colorado State Legislature, Wyoming Department of  
46. Transportation (WYDOT) and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) upon  
47. passage of this resolution.

Referred to: AD&P, HOPE, and Steering

Date of Passage: March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Signed: 

(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, I do hereby sign my name hereto and approve this

Senate action.”



ASUW President

## **Addendum A**

### **Mental Health Resources**

*If you have been affected by any of these events and desire mental health assistance, please reach out to the following sources.*

Dean of Students Office

Knight Hall

Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

(307) 766-3296

[Dos@uwyo.edu](mailto:Dos@uwyo.edu)

University Counseling Center (UCC)

Monday-Friday 8pm-5pm

(307) 766-2187

[Uccstaff@uwyo.edu](mailto:Uccstaff@uwyo.edu)

WellSpring Counseling Clinic

Mondays and Wednesdays 5-9pm; Thursdays 9am-1pm and 2-6pm; Fridays 12-4pm

(307) 766-6820

[UW-Well@uwyo.edu](mailto:UW-Well@uwyo.edu)

After Hours Crisis Counselor

(307) 766-8989

## **Addendum B**

### **UW Email Statement**

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[Search News Archives >](#)

University of Wyoming Daily News – Feb. 22, 2024

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#### **Three UW Swimmers Killed in Crash on U.S. Highway 287**

February 22, 2024 – Three members of the University of Wyoming swimming and diving team died in a single-vehicle crash on U.S. Highway 287 about 10 miles south of the Wyoming-Colorado border Thursday afternoon.

The university is not releasing their names until next of kin are notified.

Two other members of the men's swimming and diving team were injured in the crash. Their injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

The crash happened between Livermore and Virginia Dale, Colo., at the intersection of Highway 287 and Red Mountain Road, according to reports from the Colorado State Patrol. Initial indications are that the driver swerved and the vehicle went off the road, rolling multiple times. The accident is under investigation.

"We are heartsick at the news of this terrible tragedy for our university, our state, our student-athlete community and, most importantly, the families and friends of these young people," UW President Ed Seidel says. "Words are insufficient to express our sadness."

"My thoughts and prayers are with our swimming and diving student-athletes, coaches, families and friends," UW Director of Athletics Tom Burman says. "It is difficult to lose members of our University of Wyoming family, and we mourn the loss of these student-athletes. We have counseling services available to our student-athletes and coaches in our time of need."

Other UW students in need of support are encouraged to contact the University Counseling Center at (307) 766-2187. The Counseling Center is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and is prepared to support students. Students can also call an after-hours crisis counselor at (307) 766-8989.

The Dean of Students Office, (307) 766-3296, is available for any well-being support or academic assistance students may need.

UW employees may seek assistance through the Employee Assistance Program - specifically, MINES & Associates, at 1-800-873-7138.

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## **Addendum B**

### **Letter to CDOT and WYDOT, and State Legislatures**



ASUW Student Government

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

To all relevant parties,

It is with heavy hearts that we address the tragic events of February 22nd, 2024, when three cherished members of the University of Wyoming's swim and dive team—Carson Muir, Charlie Clark, and Luke Slabber—lost their lives in a devastating single-vehicle crash on US 287. ASUW extends its deepest condolences to all those impacted by this profound loss, and we express our gratitude to the campus leadership for their unwavering support during this trying time.

US 287 stands as one of the most perilous roadways in our region, and ASUW implores every student who takes this route to prioritize safety above all else, including the diligent use of seatbelts and adherence to speed limits. This recent, heart-wrenching incident only adds to the staggering tally of over five hundred crashes recorded on US 287 within the past five years. ASUW finds it unacceptable that such a high frequency of accidents persists without substantial efforts from both WYDOT and CDOT to bolster safety measures, whether through enhanced lighting or additional guardrails.

We urgently appeal to the Wyoming State Legislature and the Colorado State Legislature to allocate increased resources to their respective Departments of Transportation, empowering them to implement vital safety enhancements along US 287. The time has come for decisive action to stem the tide of tragedy and safeguard the lives of all who travel this roadway. Let us unite in this critical endeavor to effect positive change and prevent future calamities.

Sincerely,

Kameron Murfitt, ASUW President

### **Addendum C**

#### **Student Athlete Advisory Committee Letter**



To the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming:

Charlie Clark, Carson Muir, and Luke Slabber: the names of three University of Wyoming student-athletes who lost their lives on February 22nd, 2024. Their names are remembered alongside other UW student-athletes who were killed on U.S. Highway 287: Justin Lambert-Belanger, Cody Brown, Kyle Johnson, Joshua Jones, Morgan McLeland, Kevin Salverson, Nicholas Schabron, and Shane Shatto. While this may be the first time you have heard these names, they are well known among Wyoming student-athletes as the Wyoming 8. In 2001, the Wyoming 8 were killed in a car accident on U.S. Highway 287 only 17 miles south of Laramie, Wyoming. Another name that you may recognize is Nathan Reid, a UW track athlete killed on July 24th, 2023. He was found in the early morning following a single vehicle car accident. While he was killed on U.S. Highway 18/20, the conditions surrounding the accident are painfully similar to road conditions on U.S. Highway 287: the highway had poor visibility, no guardrails, and low monitoring by highway patrol.

Twelve UW student-athletes have lost their lives in highway car accidents within the last 23 years. These student-athletes were peers, community members, and friends to people around the state. This number encompasses lives lost from the UW athletic community; it does not include the lives of faculty, staff, students, and other UW community members that have lost their lives due to dangerous highway conditions. To continue to lose UW student-athletes and community members after 23 years in which safety could have been increased and highway conditions improved is both painful and disheartening, and the UW athletic community continues to grieve the loss of peers, mentors, and friends. On behalf of the athlete community, the Student Athlete Advisory Committee supports the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming in demanding increased highway safety and urges you to remember those student-athletes who have been lost to dangerous highways in and around the state of Wyoming: Justin Lambert-Belanger, Cody Brown, Kyle Johnson, Joshua Jones, Morgan McLeland, Kevin Salverson, Nicholas Schabron, Shane Shatto, Nathan Reid, Charlie Clark, Carson Muir, and Luke Slabber.

*Madyson Willis*

*University of Wyoming Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)*

*Organization Relations Officer*

## Addendum C

### News Articles of Highway 287

*All information cited in the resolution is from the following sources. For more information, use the link cited below.*

#### **USA Today<sup>1</sup>**

“With 15 fatalities in the last 11 years, including three this year, the 30-mile stretch from Colorado Highway 14 to the Wyoming state line has earned its morbid reputation.”

#### **WyomingNews<sup>2</sup>**

“The highway claimed three more lives last week. Carson Muir, 18, Charlie Clark, 19, and Luke Slabber, 21, all died in a single-vehicle crash last Thursday at the intersection of Highway 287 and Red Mountain Road, northwest of Livermore in Larimer County, Colorado.”

“Two others were injured in the crash, and both were also members of the men’s team”

“In September 2001, eight members of UW’s cross-country team — Kevin Salverson, 19, of Cheyenne; Justin Lambert-Belanger, 20, of Timmins, Ontario, Canada; Cody Brown, 21, of Hudson, Colorado; Kyle Johnson, 20, of Riverton; Joshua Jones, 22, of Salem, Oregon; Morgan McLeland, 21, of Gillette; Nicholas Schabron, 20, of Laramie; and Shane Shatto, 19, of Douglas — were killed by a drunken driver in a two-vehicle collision south of Laramie.”

“In 2010, Ruben Narcisse, 19, a football player from Miami, Florida, was killed six miles south of the state line after a driver of the vehicle he was in fell asleep at the wheel. Tie Siding was also the site of a recent fatal accident involving a WyoTech student.”

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<sup>1</sup> Blumhardt, M. (2024, February 24). ‘highway of death’: This stretch of US 287 earned its morbid reputation. Can that change? USA Today. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2023/11/02/us-highway-287-highway-14-north-of-fort-collins-to-wyoming-is-deadly-can-that-change/71359603007/?gnt-cfr=1>

<sup>2</sup> Taylor, A. (2024, February 28). Taylor column: It’s time to do something about highway 287. WyomingNews. [https://www.wyomingnews.com/wyosports/university\\_of\\_wyoming/taylor-column-its-time-to-do-something-about-highway-287/article\\_bdae176a-d5ab-11ee-a30f-7fb06fc06c6c.html](https://www.wyomingnews.com/wyosports/university_of_wyoming/taylor-column-its-time-to-do-something-about-highway-287/article_bdae176a-d5ab-11ee-a30f-7fb06fc06c6c.html)

“The 30-mile section from north of Fort Collins to the Wyoming state line has had 570 crashes — including 15 fatal wrecks — in the past five years, according to a Colorado Department of Transportation report published in the Denver Post.”

## Addendum D

### Seatbelt Safety

*The below screenshots are from the CDC providing information surrounding the benefits of wearing a seatbelt and how it can help prevent injury and death.*

#### How big is the problem of crash-related injuries and deaths to drivers and passengers?

Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death among people aged 1-54 in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Most crash-related deaths in the United States occur to drivers and passengers.<sup>5</sup>

Seat belt use is the most effective way to save lives and reduce injuries in crashes for adults and older children [who are big enough for seat belts to fit properly](#).<sup>5</sup> Yet millions do not buckle up on every trip.<sup>6</sup>

#### Deaths

- About 60% of the people who died in motor vehicle crashes in 2021 were drivers and passengers in passenger vehicles.<sup>5</sup> That's more than 26,000 people.
- More than half (range: 51%-61%) of teens 13-19 years and adults aged 20-54 years who died in crashes in 2021 were not buckled up at the time of the crash.<sup>5</sup>

#### Injuries

- More than 1.8 million drivers and passengers were treated in an emergency department as the result of being injured in motor vehicle crashes in 2021.<sup>1</sup>
- Young adult drivers and passengers aged 18-28 years had the highest crash-related non-fatal injury rates among people of all ages.<sup>1</sup>

#### Costs

- Non-fatal crash injuries to drivers and passengers resulted in over \$220 billion in lifetime medical, work, and quality of life loss costs in 2021.<sup>7</sup>





## What is the impact of seat belt use?

- Seat belts reduce serious crash-related injuries and deaths by about half.<sup>12</sup>
- Seat belts saved almost 15,000 lives in 2017.<sup>5</sup>
- Air bags provide added protection but are not a substitute for seat belts. Air bags plus seat belts provide the greatest protection for adults.<sup>13</sup>



### Primary enforcement laws make a difference

Research shows, primary enforcement seat belt laws make a big difference in getting more people to buckle up and reducing the risk of dying in a crash.<sup>8,14</sup> Observed seat belt use in 2022 was 92% in states with primary enforcement laws and 90% in states with secondary enforcement laws or no seat belt laws.<sup>9</sup>

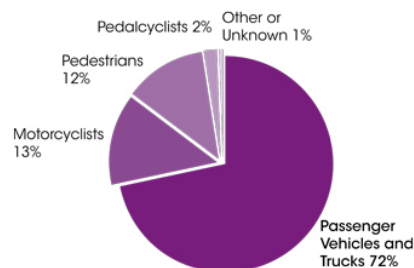
A primary enforcement seat belt law means a police officer can pull a vehicle over and issue a ticket just because a driver or passenger covered by the law is not wearing a seat belt. A secondary enforcement law only allows a police officer to issue a ticket for someone not wearing a seat belt if the driver has been pulled over for some other offense. State primary and secondary seat belt laws vary by whether drivers and all passengers (i.e., front and rear seats) or drivers and only front seat passengers are required to be buckled. These requirements may also vary depending on the age of the passenger. For information on laws in each state, check with the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety at <http://www.iihs.org>.<sup>15</sup> As of September 2023, 29 states did not have a primary enforcement law covering all seating positions for adults (ages 18+ years).<sup>15</sup>

## What Do We Know?

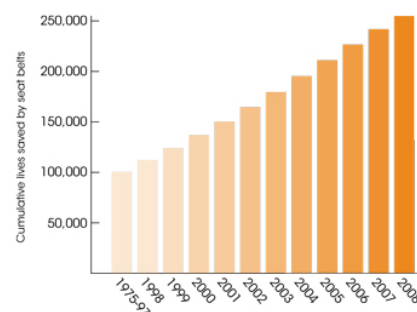
- Most drivers and passengers killed in crashes are unrestrained. 53% of drivers and passengers killed in car crashes in 2009 were not wearing restraints.<sup>1</sup>
- Seat belts dramatically reduce risk of death and serious injury. Among drivers and front-seat passengers, seat belts reduce the risk of death by 45%, and cut the risk of serious injury by 50%.<sup>4</sup>
- Seat belts prevent drivers and passengers from being ejected during a crash. People not wearing a seat belt are 30 times more likely to be ejected from a vehicle during a crash. More than 3 out of 4 people who are ejected during a fatal crash die from their injuries.<sup>5</sup>
- Seat belts save thousands of lives each year, and increasing use would save thousands more. Seat belts saved almost 13,000 lives in 2009. If all drivers and passengers had worn seat belts that year, almost 4,000 more people would be alive today.<sup>6</sup>
- In one year alone, crash deaths and injuries to drivers and passengers cost \$70 billion in medical and lost work costs.<sup>7</sup>

These facts show that increasing seat belt use is critical to reduce injury and saving lives.

### Most People Killed in Crashes are Drivers or Passengers<sup>1</sup>



### Seat Belts Have Saved an Estimated 255,000 Lives Since 1975<sup>5</sup>

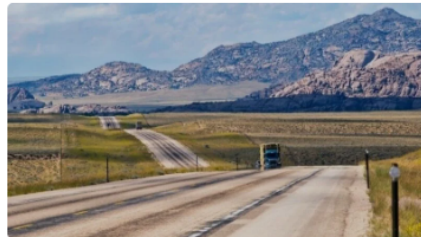


## Addendum E

### Petitions

#### Implement Guard Rails on Highway 287 for Safer Travel<sup>3</sup>

##### Implement Guard Rails on Highway 287 for Safer Travel



Started February 23, 2024  
Petition to [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) and [2 others](#)

#### Why this petition matters

Started by [Ryan Gamez](#)

As a former student at the University of Wyoming, I have witnessed the dangers of Highway 287. This highway has claimed too many lives and it's time we demand change. The lack of guard rails and possibly a divider on this highway poses a significant risk to all who travel on it, especially during harsh weather conditions which are common in Wyoming.

According to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), road departures account for more than half of all motor vehicle traffic fatalities. Guard rails can significantly reduce these types of accidents by preventing vehicles from veering off the road.

The implementation of guard rails is not just about improving safety measures; it's about preserving lives and preventing families from experiencing unnecessary grief due to potential preventable accidents. While it is not 100% effective, if our community and government can come together to save lives, then our thoughts and prayers go beyond words and we assume action. We urge our local government in Wyoming to prioritize this issue and take immediate action.

Please sign this petition if you believe that NO more lives should be lost due to inadequate safety measures on Highway 287.



Share this petition in person or use the QR code for your own material.

[Download QR Code](#)

[Report a policy violation](#)

2,231 Signatures      2,500 Next Goal

2,227 people signed this week

Sign this petition

I'm signing because... (optional)

Display my name and comment on this petition

Sign this petition

Former UW Student Ryan Gamez started a change.org petition on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 to implement guard rails on Highway 287. As of February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, this petition has 2,231 signatures.

<sup>3</sup> Gamez, R. (2024). *Implement Guard Rails on Highway 287 for Safer Travel*. Change.org. <https://www.change.org/p/implement-guard-rails-on-highway-287-for-safer-travel>

## My way for the highway: Laramie man starts petition for more safety on U.S. Highway 287<sup>4</sup>

“This petition is in request of additional officer presence on Highway 287 due to high speeds and carelessness of other drivers on the road making it unsafe for the residents of the surrounding areas to enter and exit their dwellings subdivisions. Additional presence would ensure safety for all drivers and residents surrounding Highway 287.”

“The petition had 82 signatures as of Dec. 27, 2023.”

### Addendum F

#### How to contact Local Government to make change

The Colorado Governor, Jared Polis, has a constituent service department where citizens can call and get assistance as well as getting their concerns heard. The majority of calls the Governor receives are compiled into a report for him to see and then work towards the changes people want to see.



**COLORADO**  
Governor Jared Polis



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## Contact the Office of the Governor

#### CONTACT THE GOVERNOR

Constituent Services Help Line: (303) 866-2885  
Governor's Office, Front Desk: (303) 866-2471

[State Capitol Building](#)  
[200 E. Colfax Ave., Rm. 136](#)  
[Denver, CO 80203](#)

Email the Governor: [Governorpolis@state.co.us](mailto:Governorpolis@state.co.us)

#### CONTACT THE LT. GOVERNOR

Lt. Governor Office Phone: (303) 866-4075

[State Capitol Building](#)  
[200 E. Colfax Ave., Rm. 130](#)  
[Denver, CO 80203](#)

[Visit the Lt. Governor's Website](#)

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Colorado State Archives](#)
- [Colorado State Patrol](#)
- [Department of Personnel Administration](#)
- [General Assembly](#)
- [History Colorado](#)

[Learn more about the Colorado State Capitol](#)

<sup>4</sup> Ryczek, C. (2024, January 10). *My way for the highway: Laramie man starts petition for more safety on U.S. highway 287*. Laramie Boomerang.

[https://www.wyomingnews.com/laramieboomerang/news/my-way-for-the-highway-laramie-man-starts-petition-for-more-safety-on-u-s/article\\_7e7c0828-af3a-11ee-a70c-8f8f1ceb876a.html](https://www.wyomingnews.com/laramieboomerang/news/my-way-for-the-highway-laramie-man-starts-petition-for-more-safety-on-u-s/article_7e7c0828-af3a-11ee-a70c-8f8f1ceb876a.html)

Governor Gordon of Wyoming has a contact page on his website for citizens to reach out about the concerns they have about the state of Wyoming and different processes.

**GOVERNOR MARK GORDON**

ABOUT OUR GOVERNOR | PRIORITIES | NEWS & INFORMATION | REQUESTS & PROCLAMATIONS | CONTACT US | FLAG STATUS: Full staff

### Contact Governor Gordon

To get in touch with Governor Gordon and his team, please use the contact information below. Please note, to invite the Governor and/or First Lady to an event or to schedule a meeting, click [here](#).

For media inquiries or interview requests, please email Communications Director Michael Pearlman at [michael.pearlman@wyo.gov](mailto:michael.pearlman@wyo.gov)

<b>By Mail</b> Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon State Capitol 200 West 24th Street Cheyenne, WY 82002	<b>By Phone or Fax</b> 307.777.7434 (phone) 307.632.3909 (fax)
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### Contact Governor Gordon

\* Legal First Name

\* Legal Last Name

\* Email

\* Phone

\* Mailing Address

\* City

\* State

\* Zip Code

\* County

\* Subject

If \*Other\* Subject, Enter Topic

\* Description

App ready to work offline

Both governors want to help the people of their states and help make positive changes, reaching out and asking for guard rails to be placed along 287 is a great way to get your voice out there and to try to help prevent further casualties along this highway.

## Addendum G

Chairman of the Colorado Student Government Coalition Desalvo sponsors this resolution