

Representative Jeff Barker
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
March 6, 2017
RE: HB 2598

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jessica Naylor. I reside in your district, and I am an avid motorcyclist. I used to commute daily on my motorcycle. I did not own a car, and I lead a very active lifestyle which includes working 50 hours per week in a professional kitchen, bicycling, motorcycling, kick-boxing, and mixed martial arts.

Three months ago, on Monday, November 28th at 1:42 pm, I was commuting on my motorcycle wearing a high visibility yellow safety vest. I was approaching an intersection in my neighborhood, heading eastbound on Fremont Street and preparing to make a right turn at the intersection on to NE 57th. The light was green and I put on my right blinker and reduced my speed by half. About 50 feet from the intersection, I was preparing for my turn in point (a visual marker ahead where I will turn the bike), at this moment I was thrust from behind into the air. I saw the sky and the power lines, and I didn't know what was happening to me. My bike and I landed in the middle of the intersection.

Witnesses have informed me that the SUV behind me did not hit the brakes before impact and I was ejected from my bike upwards and fell on my right side onto the ground. The rear wheel of my motorcycle landed on my right ankle. My helmet hit the ground and the knuckle armor on my gloves was chewed up. I went to the ER and was diagnosed with a badly broken ankle that needed surgery and whiplash all the way around my neck.

Every time I get on a motorcycle I wear fully armored, top quality safety gear from head to toe. No matter how short the trip. I believe in my safety and the safety of others. Being on a motorcycle puts riders in a more vulnerable position and requires us to pay more attention for our safety. The reason that I wear a high visibility yellow safety vest or one piece yellow rain suit is because I want to be seen. I want to be safe. I provide myself with the highest level of safety and visibility that I can. But what can I do if drivers are not looking at their scene in their windshield? Several times a week I have moments where cars turn in front of me anyway, and I'm watching and I'm ready to swerve myself to safety. But I finally had a day where the inattentive/reckless driver came at me from behind and caught me in a position where I could not escape.

Since this accident my life has not been the same. I am struggling to return to the physical condition that I need to be in to perform such a highly physically active career. I have been in pain for months. I am still in pain. I am still not able to return to any of my activities. I walk with a trace limp and still have some limited mobility. I continue to have neck, back, and hip related issues.

I firmly believe that accountability is necessary. The driver that caused my injuries was not even cited. People need to be aware. No more, "I didn't see them officer." Start looking!!!

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