

Dear Rep McLain,

I was schoolteacher who went to work for TriMet after retiring from teaching. While driving bus I always smiled, greeted people as they got on, and wished them a good day as they left.

During my 8th year of driving a 'gentleman' got on who reeked of marijuana (this is before it was legal). His transfer was expired and he asked for a new one. I explained to him (repeatedly) that I would get fired if I did that, but would give him a ride. As he got off he turned around and spit on me. I called Dispatch to send the police, but he ran off and, I presume, was never caught.

During all of my education classes I learned the eyes are one of the most vulnerable ways to contract something from others.

I soon left driving bus after the experience so that I would not be exposed to treatment such as that again. I had had my share of drunks yelling at me, but this incident really shook me up. Needless to say, dangers current Trimet operators face have escalated since then. I would never drive bus again as things are now.

With sincere hope that this bill passes to give the current bus drivers some chance out there,

Chris Wubbenhorst
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Be kinder than is necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.