

HB 2598 - Amends Vehicular Assault Statute

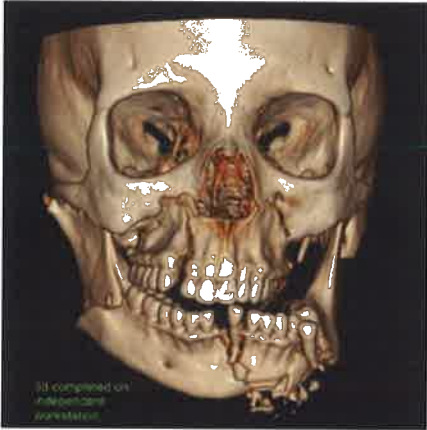
Prepared by: Christopher A. Slater, Attorney at Law
www.pnwlawyers.com

- **What is HB 2598?**
 - HB 2598 would amend the Vehicular Assault Statute, ORS 811.060, to extend the statute's protections to motorcyclists and their passengers. Currently, only pedestrians and bicycles are protected from reckless drivers under the statute.
- **Why is HB 2598 needed?**
 - When it comes to penalties for careless and reckless drivers, motorcycles are treated the same as automobiles under Oregon's Vehicle Code even though the consequences of careless and reckless driving to motorcyclists and their passengers are aggravated.
 - Oregon's Careless Driving Statute, ORS 811.135 escalates the penalties for careless driving when an injury results to every non-automobile/truck road user *except* for motorcyclists and their passengers, even though they are just as susceptible to being directly struck by a careless driver as all of these other road uses.
 - Distracted driving has become a serious problem in Oregon with the prevalence of mobile electronic devices leading to more and more distracted driving accidents. Drivers that use a mobile electronic device while driving are making a conscious decision that places pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists and their passengers at a risk of serious injury or death. These drivers need to be held accountable.
- **These Oregonians and many others are asking you to support HB 2598:**
 - **Dwight Gibbons** was rear-ended on a freeway on-ramp so hard that he and his motorcycle were pushed under the car in front of him and the driver broke his front axle when he struck a barrier. Dwight suffered burns, numerous fractures, and internal injuries. The driver denied that he was on his cell phone and received a careless driving ticket and a \$435 fine.
 - **Zander McHade** was rear-ended while waiting to make a left turn. He had his turn signal on and was wearing a hi-vis helmet and a hi-vis vest. The driver was on his cell phone. Zander went to the hospital and needed shoulder surgery. The driver received a ticket for following too closely and for driving while using a cell phone and was fined \$210.
 - **Jessica Naylor** was rear-ended by an SUV while making a right-hand turn while using her right turn signal and while wearing a hi-vis safety vest. She suffered a badly broken ankle. The driver was not cited.
 - **Claudia Argo** lost her husband when a tractor-trailer made a left turn in front of him. Claudia's husband was killed and the truck driver was not cited.
 - **Rena Walsh** was struck by an unlicensed and uninsured driver that made a dangerous left turn and struck Rena, resulting in a traumatic brain injury and many other serious injuries that changed her life forever. The driver was ticketed for 3 violations and fined \$955. **(Please see other side)**

Rena Walsh's Accident Scene



Rena Walsh's Head Injury and Reconstruction



Rena Walsh Before and After

