

May 22, 2017

Senator Floyd Prozanski
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
RE: HB 2598

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

I am a motorcyclist who is very concerned about my safety as well as other riders and passengers. For the safety of all riders, I am asking you to support HB 2598 which amends the current Vehicular Assault Statute to include motorcycle riders and their passengers. Currently in Oregon, motorcyclists do not have the same protections as bicyclists and pedestrians when a reckless driver hits a motorcycle rider or passenger, even though the injuries are often just as serious as those suffered by bicyclists and pedestrians.

I personally have been hit on my motorcycle by a driver pulling out from their driveway onto a main thoroughfare without looking and unfortunately I am still dealing with the repercussions of this more than a year later. The driver was convicted of careless driving and given a reduced fine of \$200. This is nowhere near acceptable for the fact that he could have put me out of work completely or killed me. As it is I have continuing pain in my shoulder, a totaled motorcycle, limited enjoyment of physical activities, and I am looking at possible surgery.

Motorcyclists are asking that, when a driver recklessly injures a motorcyclist or a motorcycle passenger, the driver be held accountable by being charged with a Class A Misdemeanor. While such conduct may be already illegal in Oregon, it is hoped that by affirmatively protecting motorcyclists and their passengers, drivers will become more aware of their vulnerability to reckless driving behavior. These protections are more important than ever with the dramatic increase in distracted driving in Oregon that has resulted from the prevalence of cell phone use by drivers. Riders across Oregon hope this change in current law, which already addresses pedestrians and bicyclists, will help to ensure the safety of motorcycle riders and their passenger in our great state.

Thank you,

Jeff Clemens
Beaverton, OR 97003

OREGON UNIFORM CITATION AND COMPLAINT
Use for All Violations or Crimes Where Separate Complaint Will Not Be Filed
ORS 153.045 or 153.069

COMPLAINT AND SUMMONS

CITATION #
RA510000246

DA #
COURT #

Violation(s) or Crime(s): VIOLATION (SEE B. BELOW)
Type: TRAFFIC

STATE OF OREGON
CITY/OTHER PUBLIC BODY: BEAVERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF: WASHINGTON
Case No.:
Court: BEAVERTON MUNICIPAL COURT

DEFENDANT

The undersigned certifies and says that the following person:

ID Type: PHOTO DL ID No. Class: C State: OR
CDI: NO
NAME: [REDACTED] MI: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED] State: [REDACTED]
Sex: [REDACTED]
Height: [REDACTED]
Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

TIME AND PLACE

On or about the following Time and Place in the above mentioned State and County:

Date / Time: 02-04-2016 7:05 AM
At or Near: SW KING BLVD & SW ALLEN BLVD, BEAVERTON

Premise Type: HIGHWAY

VEHICLE

Involving the following:

Type: PC Registration/VIN/ID#: [REDACTED] State: OR
Year: 1999 Make: HONDA Model: CIVIC, CRX, DEL S
Style: 2D Color: SIL/
Desc:

ACCIDENT/ PROPERTY DAMAGE

Involved:

OFFENSE(S)

Did then and there commit the following offense(s):

1 Violated (ORS/ORD/RULE): 811.135 2 Presumptive Fine: \$435.00
Charge: CARELESS DRIVING-CONTRIBUTING TO ACCIDENT

Method: ID#: Alleged Speed: Posted Speed:
Special Zone:
Culpable Mental State: NO CULPABLE MENTAL STATE

2 Violated (ORS/ORD/RULE): Presumptive Fine:
Charge:

Method: ID#: Alleged Speed: Posted Speed:
Special Zone:
Culpable Mental State:

3 Violated (ORS/ORD/RULE): Presumptive Fine:
Charge:

Method: ID#: Alleged Speed: Posted Speed:
Special Zone:
Culpable Mental State:

OTHER / EXPLAIN:

SIGNATURE

I certify under ORS 153.045 and 153.990 and under other applicable law and under penalties for false swearing, do swear / affirm that I have sufficient grounds to and do believe that the above-mentioned defendant/person committed the above offense(s) and I have served the defendant/person with this complaint.

Signature of Officer: *S. Burke*
Officer Name #1: BURKE, SCOTT (27429) Officer ID #: 27429

Agency: BEAVERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Officer Name #2: Officer ID #:

Agency:

Date Issued: 02-04-2016

YOUR COURT APPEARANCE DATE / TIME AND LOCATION

Date: 02-22-2016 8:30 AM