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## Testimony on SB 2667 February 14, 2016

AARP is pleased to endorse SB 2667, a bill that establishes a task force on Vision Zero towards the goal of achieving zero traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities on our streets.

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan social welfare organization with a nationwide membership of nearly 38 million and 500,000 in Oregon. We work to improve quality of life for all as we age, strengthen our communities, and fight for the issues that matter most to families. An important aspect of our work in Oregon is advocating for livable and age-friendly communities, including safe streets so that people can get around easily and safely regardless of what mode they rely on.

Older road users are overrepresented in both vehicle and pedestrian crash fatalities. Nationally older adults comprise 13 percent of the population, but represented 16 percent of vehicle fatalities and almost 20 percent of pedestrian fatalities.<sup>1</sup> Though of all age groups, older adults have the lowest crash rate per licensed driver, an older occupant of a vehicle is 24 percent more likely to die in a crash than someone under the age of 65. More alarming is the fact that an older pedestrian who is struck by a vehicle is 52 percent more likely to die than a younger pedestrian. These are due in large part to increased frailty. Here in Oregon, according to the 2015 Oregon State of Pedestrian Safety report, older Oregonians are 4 times more likely to be killed walking in our streets than any other age group.<sup>2</sup> This is not acceptable.

In addition to older adults, according to the latest *Dangerous by Design* report, people of color are also overrepresented among pedestrian deaths.<sup>3</sup> We believe that traffic fatalities and serious injuries from crashes are avoidable and intolerable. We can and must have a convenient and efficient transportation system that is also safe, accessible, and user-friendly to people of all ages and abilities regardless of income, background, or where they live.

On behalf of the over half million AARP members ages 50+ statewide, we urge you to support SB 2667 and establish a taskforce on Vision Zero. We also urge you to direct this task force to include at least one representative from communities of color and focus on strategies that address traffic crashes involving the most vulnerable groups, especially pedestrians, cyclists, older adults, and people of color.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to make our region an age-friendly and livable place for people of all ages and abilities.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elaine Friesen-Strang".

Elaine Friesen-Strang  
Volunteer State President  
AARP Oregon

Real Possibilities