

Richard J. Dolgonas
1338 S.E. Overlook
Roseburg, Oregon 97470
(541) 672-1757

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I am writing in support of HB 2667 which sets up a task force to look into establishing a Vision Zero program for the state. I was alarmed at learning just how many fatalities and serious injuries occur in our state. I also have been on the receiving end of one of those calls nobody wants to receive after a pick-up truck struck my wife as she was walking across a major street with the walk signal. Fortunately, her injuries were not real serious, but it really woke me up to just how vulnerable we are in our current system, whether in a motor vehicle, on foot, wheeling, or riding a bicycle. In addition to the disastrous consequences of crashes, our current transportation system negatively impacts our health and inhibits the creation of successful, vital communities. Clearly this bill could be the start of making saving lives and reducing injuries, but making our state a better place for all.

Vision Zero, which has been successfully used elsewhere in this country and throughout the world, changes the manner in which our highways, roads, and streets are designed. There is no doubt that individual behavior matters too, but even with increased safety standards built into our cars, more education and increased emphasis on preventing distracted or under-the-influence driving, we are still facing totally unnecessary disruptions in the lives of our citizens.

Simply put, our transportation system needs to focus on the health and safety of all users, regardless of age, infirmity, or mode of travel, not merely moving motorized vehicles as swiftly as possible.

Please support HB 2667 which will be the first step in helping to create a safer, healthier environment for all Oregonians.

Thank you.

Richard J. Dolgonas