

I am writing to show my full support for **Senate Bill 998**, allowing people on bikes to treat stop signs as yields.

As a bike education instructor, certified as a Coach by the League of American Bicyclists, I have trained thousands of students and certified over 200 League Cycling Instructors over my 25 years of teaching. I have certified instructors throughout the Northwest including Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Idaho. When training in Idaho it was always interesting to adapt my trainings to the common sense law of treating stop signs as yield signs for people riding bikes. When I train in other locations we often discuss the existing behavior of people on bikes rolling up to stop signs, seeing that it's clear, and rolling through. We train instructors that they must teach their students that a Stop sign legally means they have to come to a complete stop even though we know that actual behavior is very different. We also talk about why the Idaho law **makes much more sense for the safe and efficient operation of bikes as vehicles and that training people proper safety is actually easier when operating under that law**. We can adapt our bike safety education training for adults and kids to fit this law very easily and I look forward to working with educators throughout the state to do so.

I taught bike safety education in schools for many years through the Safe Routes to School program and have led dozens of family friendly bike rides. Having a stop as yield law will make teaching bike safety better and will validate existing behavior for the families who are currently riding as well as encourage more families to ride more often. These families know that when you're riding your cargo bike with 1-3 kids in it you're going to slow down to a safe speed and if it's clear you're going to keep that all important momentum going and roll through. If there is cross traffic you're going to stop, negotiate the intersection when it's legal and safe, and then proceed. You're not going to put your kids in danger but you're also not going to stop for no reason when you have clear visibility, great brakes, and the momentum to keep that 200+ lb kid-laden human powered vehicle moving!

As someone who works as a Transportation Options Coordinator, spending hundreds of hours for work and pleasure on the bike riding in many different places throughout the state and the country I know that this law will make Oregon a better place ride and will encourage more people to ride (safely) more often. Many neighborhood streets are built with many stop signs, meant to slow and discourage cars from using these quiet streets as through streets. However, these are the exact streets we want to encourage people on bikes to use *because* they are quiet streets. **By changing the law so that you don't have to come to a complete stop every time at these stop signs we encourage these streets as "bike boulevards" and encourage more people to ride on them (instead of driving)**. The biggest thing that increases safety for people on bikes is more people on bikes. "Safety in numbers" is real and by getting more people out riding we're making our streets safer (and less polluting) for all road users.

Please pass this bill out of committee and onto the House to pass so that we can continue the work to make Oregon the best state in the country to ride!

I write this letter as an individual and not representing any organization, business, or group.

Thank You,

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