

I am a motorcycle rider who lives in the Portland area. I ride for pleasure, and occasionally commute. Riders assume significant risks to enjoy the roads in Oregon, including sharing congested highways with distracted, unaware, or even aggressive drivers. An evidence based review of the relevant studies, including the "Rice" report and the Leuven study suggests that all citizens benefit from a lanesplitting option for motorcyclists.

While individuals in cars have added mass and safety equipment, motorcyclists must constantly assess these risks in real time or face life altering consequences, up to and including fatalities. Any motorcyclist can attest to near-miss events, particularly in highway traffic. These split-second defensive decisions become very important to safe riding. SB574 provides potentially lifesaving options for riders to make good decisions on the highway, and that reduce risk for everyone. Lane splitting provides a safe, appropriate option to keep bikes moving, airflow going, reduce congestion, also gives riders tools to avoid being "rear ended." Drivers are asked to do no more than they already do - pay attention to their surroundings.

Motorcyclists must be able to share the road safely. The additional flexibility that SB74 offers has significant benefits, and minimal incremental (additional) risk. Based on the benefits significantly outweighing possible negatives, I respectfully request that the bill be supported.