

House Committee on Rules,

I am writing in opposition of HB2002. I am writing specifically in regard to making Class A Misdemeanors the only class of crime law enforcement can lodge a subject for. I also wished to express my opinion regarding not allow a law enforcement officer to conduct a traffic stop on a vehicle if only one of the two lights are working. As a member of the Criminal Justice System I see firsthand the effects of removing a subject from a situation where they are committing a crime. I have handled domestic assaults occurring inside motor vehicles on our highways. Often the victim is not willing to pursue charges and is unwilling to speak out against the offender for fear of retribution. Due to having the ability to rely on witness statements and Class B Misdemeanors such as Harassment I, as a peace officer, am able to remove the aggressor from the situation to insure there is no escalation of violence once I leave.

Additionally, last summer my family has experience firsthand the results of a subject who should have been lodge in jail for a Misdemeanor less than a Class A crime, but was only issued a citation in-lieu of arrest due to the jail's COVID-19 protocols. The subject was contacted by local police three times for lesser crimes such as: Disorderly Conduct, Harassment, and Trespassing over the course of the week. Later in that week my pregnant wife was in the wrong place at the wrong time to be near that subject and he decided to attack her with his vehicle while she was driving to work.

That subject chased her in his truck, accelerated his truck behind her repeatedly in a mock ramming, then rammed the rear of her vehicle while she attempted to turn off that roadway to another. She still needs to seek medical attention for therapy as a result of this incident.

If HB2002 passes more innocent victims, such as my wife, will suffer the consequences of this bill while the criminals committing these crimes will be released until they commit a more aggressive and egregious offense. This will result in more victims in our communities which is not healthy.

In regards to not stopping a motorist for a single light out on their vehicle, I regularly stop and advised motorists of their equipment defect. Often they are not aware of the defect. Had they been able to continue on their way without being told of the defect the possibility of them driving their vehicle at night until all the lights fail increases. Should all the light fail they would be forced to remain at their un-intended location until the defect is fixed alongside the roadway, which is a dangerous place to make vehicle repairs, or calling an expensive tow truck to remove the vehicle.

This bill does not protect our communities and I urge you to vote no on this bill.

Thank you for considering my opinion,

Zachary Yoder  
Hood River, OR