

Senator Lee Beyer and Representative Susan McLain
Chairs, Joint Committee on Transportation

March 1, 2021

RE: SB 574

Dear Chairs Beyer and McLain and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jessica Naylor. I am an avid motorcyclist. I used to commute daily on my motorcycle. I did not own a car, and I lead a very active lifestyle which includes working 50 hours per week in a professional kitchen, bicycling, motorcycling, kick-boxing, and mixed martial arts.

On Monday, November 28, 2016 at 1:42 pm, I was commuting on my motorcycle wearing a high visibility yellow safety vest. I was approaching an intersection in my neighborhood, heading eastbound on Fremont Street and preparing to make a right turn at the intersection on to NE 57th. The light was green and I put on my right blinker and reduced my speed by half. About 50 feet from the intersection, I was preparing for my turn in point (a visual marker ahead where I will turn the bike), at this moment I was thrust from behind into the air. I saw the sky and the power lines, and I didn't know what was happening to me. My bike and I landed in the middle of the intersection.

Witnesses have informed me that the SUV behind me did not hit the brakes before impact and I was ejected from my bike upwards and fell on my right side onto the ground. The rear wheel of my motorcycle landed on my right ankle. My helmet hit the ground and the knuckle armor on my gloves was chewed up. I went to the ER and was diagnosed with a badly broken ankle that needed surgery and whiplash all the way around my neck.

Every time I get on a motorcycle I wear fully armored, top quality safety gear from head to toe. No matter how short the trip. I believe in my safety and the safety of others. Being on a motorcycle puts riders in a more vulnerable position and requires us to pay more attention for our safety. The reason that I wear a high visibility yellow safety vest or one piece yellow rain suit is because I want to be seen. I want to be safe. I provide myself with the highest level of safety and visibility that I can. But what can I do if drivers are not looking at their scene in their windshield? Several times a week I have moments where cars turn in front of me anyway, and I'm watching and I'm ready to swerve myself to safety. But I finally had a day where the inattentive/reckless driver came at me from behind and caught me in a position where I could not escape.

Riders like me need to have the most safety options available wherever we ride so that we have the best opportunity to avoid a rear-end accident like mine. On highways and freeways during commuting hours that means allowing riders like me to safely filter between lanes of slowed or stopped traffic so we are not just sitting there exposed to being rear-ended by inattentive/reckless drivers. While I think this practice would help reduce traffic congestion for everyone, I want it for my safety even more after my recent accident.

I hope that you will recommend passage of SB 574 for me and my fellow riders.

Jessica Naylor
Portland, Oregon