

Submitter: Tera Taylor
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB422

Chair Prozanski and members of the Committee: my name is Tera Taylor and I am from Wilsonville. I'd like to tell you why I support SB 422 and why this bill is important to me as a veteran, a mother, and a rider.

Growing up as an Army brat I had no roots and no friends until I moved to Oregon where I graduated high school. My dad wanted a son but got me instead so he raised me like a soldier. When my two brothers were born, my dad didn't need me to be the 'son' anymore, he then expected me to be the stereotypical female. Quiet, demure, and proper.

I rejected what society wanted me to be as a female and it was me and not my brothers who became the third generation to serve. In the Army I learned how to push beyond my mental and physical limitations which was really put to the test when I deployed to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. While there, I met my husband when he saved my life when our convoy was ambushed.

Our daughter, Cadence, was born in 2007. She is a Wilsonville High School student and is in the audience. Nothing in this world is more important to me than my daughter. I have raised Cadence as a single mother since she was 2 while working full time and going to college. Today, I am proud to be working as a paralegal at a law firm in downtown Portland.

To me, riding means freedom and brings a fulfilling sense of oneness with the world around me. I get to share my love of motorcycles with my daughter when we ride together. I ride my motorcycle to work which is a 30-60 minute commute each way. One of the most dangerous situations I face as a rider is stop and go traffic because I don't have any legal exit strategy.

When I ride, I have to be constantly vigilant, aware of my environment, identify threats, and formulate exit strategies. I ride as though I am invisible to drivers around me because they are the threat I cannot control. In a way, riding motorcycles is like being in the Army. We train, we practice, and wear proper gear so we can get home safely to our families. The only thing more important than me getting home safely is my daughter getting home safely. That is my mission.

There is a special bond amongst veterans and a sense of community which is unique. I have found there is a similar bond within the riding community. Nobody cares more about riders than riders and being new to the riding community I will never forget attending the Motorcycle Awareness Rally which is held right here at the

capitol. Every fallen rider is honored with a white helmet and every name is read out loud. I've had to bury friends I lost during my deployment. My grandpa is buried in the San Francisco National Cemetery. White gravestones, white helmets.

Nobody in this room wants to see these.

Passing this bill will give me the exit strategy I need to complete my mission.

Thank you.