

Submitter: Tera Taylor
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: SB422

Chair McClain, Chair Frederick, 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 422A 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. 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. 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.

I'm a single mom, my daughter completely depends on me, and motorcycles are dangerous. So why do I ride? It's my selfish moment. It's for ME. I started riding 5 years ago after completing Team Oregon, and I've been hooked ever since. I commute on my motorcycle to work on I5, which takes up to an hour each way because of Portland's traffic problem. 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. My family is a motorcycle family and I share my passion with Cadence, now 15, who rides on the back of my motorcycle as my passenger. My mission is to make sure we are safe.

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, and I want to be able to get home to my daughter.

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

Thank you.