



State of Connecticut  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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Testimony in support of Raised Bill No. 414

Good afternoon Chairman DeFronzo, Chairman Guerrera and members of the Transportation Committee. For the record, I am Timothy Larson, State Representative from the 11<sup>th</sup> District. I am here today to testify on Raised Bill No. 414, ACC Making Revisions to Statutes Concerning The Department of Motor Vehicles. Specifically, Section 2 pertaining to motorcycle endorsement requirements.

In May of 2008 a friend, Stephanie Pelletier, lost her son Nick Cohen to a motorcycle accident at the age of 19. Nick was operating a motorcycle without having had any motorcycle training. After losing Nick, Stephanie began to research our state's requirements on obtaining a motorcycle license

Both Stephanie and I were surprised to find out that Connecticut requires only 16 and 17 year olds to complete a motorcycle training course. This is particularly startling considering current statistics from the Connecticut Department of Transportation. In 2008 there we a total of 61 motorcycle fatalities, motorcycle drivers under the age of 18 account for only 2 of those deaths. In 2007, there were 41 deaths, with only 1 death of a rider under the age of 18. One can only assume that our 16 and 17 year old drivers did indeed benefit from the required motorcycle training course.

In a recent study conducted by the University of Southern California, 4,778 motorcycle fatalities were investigated; it was found that *two thirds* of the fatalities were due to

motorcycle rider error. They also state that the motorcycle riders involved in accidents were essentially ***without training***; 92% of the riders were self-taught or learned from family or friends. Further, the study concluded that motorcycle rider training experience reduces accident involvement and is related to reduced injuries in the event of accidents.

I urge you to consider the safety of all motorcycle riders by making the motorcycle training course a requirement for ***all*** people obtaining a motorcycle license, and I respectfully request you report this bill favorably out of committee.