

Kess, Quinn

From: TomObrien <obrien9685@charter.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 4:47 PM
To: Kess, Quinn
Cc: Kelly Kennedy | Bike Walk CT
Subject: Written testimony in support of S.B. No. 191

I am writing to register my support for passage of S.B. No. 191, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR CAUSING HARM TO A VULNERABLE USER OF A PUBLIC WAY.

If I had a nickel for every time someone told me that I was “taking my life into my hands” by riding a bike on the roads in Connecticut, I wouldn’t be rich, but I’d have heavy pockets.

None of the motorists who pass too close, or turn directly in front of me, or “pull a right hook,” are homicidal maniacs. They are my friends and neighbors. But something happens to all of us when we get behind the wheel and isolate ourselves inside a three-ton bubble of glass and steel. It becomes all about “me,” getting where I need to go as fast as possible. Time seems to speed up. And a 5 second wait to allow oncoming traffic to clear in order to safely pass a bicyclist or pedestrian feels like an hour.

We ignore the humanity of our fellow travelers who have nothing to protect them from injury or death, except possibly a styrofoam helmet; until something terrible happens. And it happens all too frequently in our state.

The Vulnerable User’s Bill is a tool to remind otherwise good citizens of our duty to look out for one another, and to punish those who carelessly put others at risk.

I urge you to pass it.

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