

February 28, 2014

Sen. Andrew Maynard and Rep. Antonio Guerrero, Co-Chairs
Connecticut General Assembly Transportation Committee
Room 2300
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: SB 336

Dear Sen. Maynard and Rep. Guerrero,

I write to you as a supporter of Senate Bill 336, "An Act Concerning the Penalty for Causing harm to a Vulnerable User of a Public Way" and to call your attention to a key difference between the bill as proposed and as drafted by the committee. As originally proposed, SB336:

- Defines a "vulnerable user" of the state's roads as a pedestrian, highway worker, person riding or driving an animal, person riding a bicycle, person using a skateboard, roller skates or inline skates, person operating or riding on an agricultural tractor or person using a wheelchair or motorized chair; and
- Provides that a person who fails to exercise reasonable care while driving, and injures or kills a vulnerable user, shall be required to attend a driver's retraining program and to perform community service, and may be fined up to \$1,000.

As a pediatric emergency department physician, I cannot stress enough the multi-faceted burdens associated with traumatic injury of innocent pedestrians and cyclists. We often care for these vulnerable victims who have lost their life, limb, and/or have become permanently disabled from reckless motor vehicle drivers. These injuries add to preventable health care dollars wasted. The emotional impact cannot be understated and post-traumatic stress experienced by family members can last a lifetime. This bill is a step in the right direction to change motorist behaviors and will add much needed additional protections to our street's vulnerable users as described above.

Sincerely,

Antonio Riera, MD
Assistant Professor
Pediatric Emergency Medicine
Yale University School of Medicine

100 York Street
Suite 1F
New Haven, CT 06511
phone: 203-737-7439
fax: 203-737-7447

CC: Senator Beth Bye
Representative Roland Lemar
Members of the Joint Transportation Committee