

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: SB336

Dear Sen. Maynard and Rep. Guerrero,

I write to you as supporter of Senate Bill SB336, "An Act Concerning the Penalty for Causing harm to a Vulnerable User of a Public Way".

As a Pediatrician/Pediatric Emergency Medicine Specialist working in New Haven, Connecticut I am horrified by the commonplace act of motorists making left hand turns on red. Specifically the illegal maneuvers have taken place on George Street as the individual is turning onto York Street without stopping at a firmly red traffic light. I have personally witnessed several family units (mothers pushing baby carriages or strollers) nearly run over by these carelessly reckless drivers. I would have called in license plate numbers to police but each time it is impossible secondary to the egregious and surprising nature of the event, the need to assist the nearly injured highly vulnerable population, coupled with the speed at which the vehicles are moving to read the license plate number. Events like these have to stop!

Vulnerable user laws in other states such as Oregon, Washington, and Delaware include these requirements to ensure that drivers are held accountable for crashes that involve the serious injury or death of a vulnerable road user. Moreover, these provisions help ensure that drivers operate their vehicles safely in the future. While a fine is an important deterrent to careless driving, the bill as originally proposed better reflects the spirit of the state's Complete Streets legislation: That our roadways should be safe for everyone who uses them, even the most vulnerable.

Thank you for your past and current support of vulnerable user legislation.

Sincerely,

Karen Santucci, MD
Professor of Pediatrics
Medical Director and Section Chief
Pediatric Emergency Medicine/Yale School of Medicine

