

Neeley, Nick

From: Laura Baum <laura.madeline.baum@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 12:10 AM
To: Neeley, Nick
Cc: bikewalkct@bikewalkct.org
Subject: Vulnerable User Bill

I am the President of the Board of Bike Walk Connecticut and I want to urge the Transportation Committee to vote the Vulnerable User Bill out of committee so that it can be heard by (and voted for by) the full legislature.

Careless drivers injure hundreds of people every year in Connecticut--130 pedestrians and cyclists were killed between 2010 and 2012 and approximately 1,400 pedestrians and cyclists are injured every year.

Unless there is evidence of drug or alcohol use or a hit and run, careless drivers are rarely held accountable for their devastating, preventable, actions. Driving that injures or kills is often penalized with little more than a fine. The vulnerable user law recognizes that "vulnerable road users," such as pedestrians, bicyclists, first responders, and highway workers need additional legal protections. The bill provides enhanced penalties for careless driving resulting in injury or death of a vulnerable road user.

The League of American Bicyclists' top recommendation for Connecticut in its Bike Friendly State Report Card calls for Connecticut to "Adopt a vulnerable road user law that increases penalties for a motorist that injures or kills a bicyclist or pedestrian." (CT's Bike Friendly State ranking was only 18 in 2013.)

Thank you for your time,
Laura Baum
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