

**Carroll, Rhonda**

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**From:** Jared Chase <jared.l.chase@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 29, 2016 7:36 PM  
**To:** JudTestimony; Rep. Arce, Angel; Sen. Fonfara, John  
**Cc:** Bike Walk Connecticut  
**Subject:** Support for HB 5403, Pedestrian & Cyclist Safety

Dear Representative Tong, Senator Coleman, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to thank you for raising HB 5403, which will enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety in Connecticut. I urge the legislature to pass this bill in 2016.

The economic, public health, and environmental benefits of active transportation are well-documented. But to encourage more of Connecticut's citizens to contribute to these benefits, walking and cycling must feel and be safe. When I walk to and from work each day, I feel safe in all zones but those where sidewalks intersect with roadways. I know that, even though I follow the rules of the road, a driver disregarding those rules could easily injure me. The dangerous driving behaviors I have witnessed include failing to stop for pedestrians traveling in marked crosswalks, blowing through red lights, and entering designated bike lanes while passing other vehicles.

~~I know, from past experience living in Massachusetts, that driver awareness of and courtesy toward pedestrians and cyclists can be enhanced to levels that promote safe and enjoyable active transportation. Laws that impose due penalties for failure to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and to exercise due care to avoid hitting pedestrians or cyclists are an important part of any policy landscape designed to elevate the safety enjoyed by all those who use our thoroughfares responsibly.~~

I commend you for supporting legislation that meets this standard, and encourage all legislators to pass HB 5403 this year.

Sincerely,

Jared Chase, Hartford