

## Carroll, Rhonda

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**From:** Colleen Kelly Alexander <colleenkalexander@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 7:53 PM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Subject:** Fwd: Support for HB 5403

Dear Rep. Tong, Sen. Coleman, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

As a member of Bike Walk Connecticut and a survivor of a severe cycling trauma here in the State of CT. I thank you for raising HB 5403, an important measure to make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists to use the roads. I urge the legislature to pass this bill in 2016.

My husband and I moved here in 2010 to start jobs. I was working as a director in the non profit sector and commuted via bicycle daily to work (approx 12 miles each way). Prior to my move to CT I lived in VT where I would often commute up to 30 miles per day to and from work.

On October 8, 2011 While returning from an office meeting a freight liner failed to stop at a stop sign and ran me over with all sets of tires. I was brutally ripped apart, bled out and required multiple resuscitation's, I then spent a month and a half in a coma, another month and a half bed ridden at Gaylord, and over the next 4 years I would have a total of 28 surgeries. Thankfully I had been a strong willed triathlete and humanitarian and instead of making the trauma ruin my life, I used it to be a catalyst for change. Had I not been a conditioned triathlete my heart would have never handled the trauma. I almost left my husband and my family that day. That day I lost the ability to bear our child. The driver of this freight truck received an INFRACTION. This is unjust. Please pass this bill so we can hold others accountable and help make CT a safer place to bike and walk.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

*Colleen Kelly Alexander*  
*Survivor. Madison, CT*

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*Colleen Kelly Alexander*

"Compassion is a verb."  
— Thich Nhat Hanh

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*Colleen Kelly Alexander*