

Carroll, Rhonda

From: Andrew S. Rothstein%2C Ph.D. <a.s.rothstein@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 12:02 PM
To: JudTestimony
Cc: Rep. Fleischmann, Andrew; bikewalkct@bikewalkct.org
Subject: HB 5403, An Act Increasing Penalties For Failure To Yield To Pedestrians In Crosswalks And Failure To Exercise Due Care To Avoid Hitting A Pedestrian Or Cyclist

I am writing in support of ***HB 5403, An Act Increasing Penalties For Failure To Yield To Pedestrians In Crosswalks And Failure To Exercise Due Care To Avoid Hitting A Pedestrian Or Cyclist.***

I am an avid cyclist. In October, I was hit by a car in Bloomfield while riding. I suffered a very bad cut, severe abrasions, and multiple deep bruises (avoided the most serious consequences).

The driver was unlicensed, uninsured, and in an unregistered car with license plates from another car. Despite all this, he is only charged with 4 traffic infractions, none involving hitting me. He faces no more than a few hundred dollars in fines in total for all the offenses, while it took me six weeks to recover, pay about \$1,500 in out-of-pocket medical expenses, and replacing of a carbon fiber bike. The driver even failed to appear in court twice.

This incident has made it clear to me that the penalties for drivers not sufficient for hitting pedestrians and cyclists. I know that I am far from alone in this experience and point of view.

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