

Carroll, Rhonda

From: Brian Sheffer <bsheffer@tvconnect.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 9:31 AM
To: JudTestimony
Cc: zRepresentative Aundre Bumgardner; bikewalkct@bikewalkct.org
Subject: Support HB 5403

Members of the Judiciary Committee.

Thank you for raising 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 walker and bicyclist. I regularly see automobiles fail to yield to pedestrians in cross walks. I think something needs to be done to correct this. Recently I saw a man who appeared to be homeless trying to cross Williams street in New London at the intersection with Bailey Circle using a cross walk. Many cars failed to stop so that he could cross. He got frustrated and started to throw empty aluminum containers at the passing cars while cursing at them. It was comical but sad sight.

I believe that the root cause of many of these failures to stop is the design of the roads that are wide and strait and encourage unsafe automobile speeds. When a car is traveling over 40 mph in an urban areas it is unlikely to stop for a pedestrian. Streets should be redesigned to reduce automobile speeds. Also crossings should be narrowed so pedestrians have less distance to cover when they cross.

In the absence of better street design increased enforcement is the next best option.

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Sent from my iPhone