

381 Temple Street
New Haven, CT 06511

As a citizen of New Haven, I am appalled by the number of traffic violations and fatalities. That we should lose even one pedestrian to a traffic violation is a shame; that we have lost four already in 2020--and we are not even at February's end as I write--is horrific.

I have seen far too many drivers speeding through downtown New Haven and doing so with impunity, putting us all at risk. As a senior citizen, I avoid crossing at certain intersections for I know that even with a cross walk, these intersections are high risk. I know that everyone could do better--bikers, drivers, scooter riders and skateboard riders, and pedestrians alike-- but when anything on wheels hits a pedestrian, the pedestrian is at great risk. I also know that we need a better police presence and that the police have begun to be more proactive. But police are not enough. There need to be deterrents. I applaud H.B. No. 5324 because of its measures to slow vehicles and to hit the pocketbooks of violators harder. These measures should help.

Our streets are not safe. Our kids are not safe. Please raise H.B. No. 5324, and protect the citizens.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Sledge
FEB 26. 2020

Also Supporting the bill:

Joy VanderLek
160 Brook Lane

Transportation Committee Members,

I applaud your efforts to promote pedestrian safety with Bill H.B. No. 5324.

I would ask you to consider including a provision to address the cutting of corners between streets through private lots. Being a resident of CT for 20 years, I was not aware that it is legal in CT to cut a red light by passing through the drive lanes of corner lots. This last fall, my son was seriously injured by being struck by a car cutting a red light while biking to school and the driver was not issued a ticket. I have been tempted by this legal, but uncourteous and potentially dangerous maneuver and hope you will consider provisions against it in future legislation.

Thank you for your good work,

Mary Jo Kestner
Guilford, CT

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for considering H.B. No. 5324, a proposal that will greatly increase the safety of vulnerable road users in our state. As a resident of New Haven who does not own a car, I am astounded by the frequency with which my safety feels secondary to the speed with which motorists are able to reach their destinations.

Last summer, I was hit by a opening car door while cycling north on York St, New Haven. I was thrown off my bike and into the roadway. Fortunately for me, the vehicle behind me was able to stop before running over my prostrate body. The owner of the vehicle who opened the door in front of me was courteous, but faced no consequences for what could have been the end of a life. Imposing a penalty as in H.B. No. 5324 would increase awareness of the risks of car doors to bicyclists.

Risks such as the one I described above are not an accident of our transport system. They are the consequences of a system designed by motorists, for motorists, to the detriment of anyone who cannot afford, or does not wish, to use this expensive and unsustainable mode of transport. H.B. No. 5324 is the first step towards fixing this system.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Gigante
65 Linden St
New Haven CT 06511