

Kevin Campbell

Lobbyist

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To: Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation

**From: Kevin Campbell
AAA Oregon/Idaho**

Date: February 20, 2019

Re: HB 2314 Testimony in Opposition – Motorcycle Lane Splitting

Chair McKeown, Chair Beyer, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

For the record, my name is Kevin Campbell and I am here today on behalf of AAA Oregon/Idaho to speak in opposition to HB 2314. This bill would allow motorcycles and mopeds to travel between traffic lanes in certain conditions. At AAA, the safety of all Oregon motorists is a top priority. Unfortunately, we are unable to support HB 2314 for the following reasons:

From a policy perspective, AAA takes positions on traffic safety issues when adequate and clear data and research is available and suggests that a policy direction is prudent. We don't believe there is enough data to support a policy that authorizes lane splitting. While supporters of this policy often cite a U.C Berkeley Safe Transportation Research and Education Center study to support adoption of lane splitting legislation, the report was clear that "to estimate how the risk of being involved in a collision changes when motorcyclists chose to lane-split, we would require information on both the lane-splitting and non-lane-splitting riding that is done by some identifiable sample of motorcyclists. The collection of these data points is fraught with problems, and the current study did not attempt to collect such data."

Currently, California is the only state in the U.S. that allows lane splitting. In September of 2018, the California Highway Patrol issued the following disclaimer as the result of authority granted to them with the passage of AB 51: Lane Splitting can be dangerous and extreme caution should be exercised. It should not be performed by inexperienced riders. The risk of death or serious injury during a lane splitting collision increases as speed and speed differential increases. These general safety tips are provided to assist you in the practice; however they are not guaranteed to keep you safe. Every rider has the ultimate responsibility from their own decision-making and safety.

With the national rate of motorcycle fatalities 28 times higher than those involving motor vehicles Motorcycle-involved fatalities have more than doubled since 1997. In light of this, we believe the following issues/concerns should be considered:

- Inexperienced riders attempting lane splitting
- Inadequate space to ride between vehicles;
- Unpredictable traffic movement (lane changes, turns, etc.);
- Poor road or weather conditions;
- Attempting to travel between trucks or other large vehicles;
- Lane splitting while DUII

Thank you for your consideration.