



Carla C. Piluso
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March 22, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation
RE: House Bill 2915

Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair McKeown, and members of the committee:

My name is Carla Piluso and I proudly represent House District 50, the great city of Gresham.

I am here in support of House Bill 2915, which would establish a Yellow Dot program here in Oregon. This legislation came to me from a House District 50 resident, Elizabeth Miles of Gresham.

I'm always happy to work on an idea from a constituent, but I also think this program is an innovative solution to fill an important gap in our safety net. It is aimed at helping first responders during the critical "golden hour" following a serious crash, getting them potentially life-saving information about the occupants of a car.

Here's how it works: participants fill out a form with their vital medical information and emergency contacts and place it in the glove box in their car. They then affix a yellow decal to the rear window of their car, to alert emergency personnel that they can find the information when responding to a crash or other emergency situation.

The beauty of this program is that it is flexible, acting as a help to first responders without being a hindrance. First responders are explicitly not liable for acting or not acting on the Yellow Dot information; the information is there to be a tool for first responders, not another responsibility to add to everything else they have to do.

Participants also have flexibility in how they use this program. Participation is completely voluntary, and participants have control over what types of information they include on their form. This is intended to be a low-barrier program for the many situations where people have medical needs. You'll hear from Elizabeth that her daughter has a rare medical condition that makes car crashes especially risky for her—but we've heard of others who have conditions such as diabetes, allergies to certain medications, or a child or spouse with a chronic condition.

There are currently Yellow Dot programs in eight states across the country. We've heard from people in these states that this can be a low-cost, low-impact way of improving outcomes. ODOT will have flexibility to partner with community groups and law enforcement to publicize the program and distribute the packets, and we are expecting that part of the program will be funded with philanthropic dollars.

There are a few details of this policy that we are going to continue to work out, including issues around search and seizure. But today I am excited to move forward with such an innovative solution to a real problem for Oregonians.

I want to take this chance to thank Elizabeth Miles, who brought this bill to me and has done an incredible job researching and working on the policy issues. When she testifies, you'll hear why I am proud to represent her in Salem.

Thank you for your time and attention today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carla Piluso', written in a cursive style.

Carla C. Piluso
Oregon State Representative, House District 50