

Greetings Joint Committee on Transportation,

I respectfully request your support of SB574. I am writing to you as a nurse, a former researcher, and a motorcycle rider of 14 years.

As a nurse, I often face the assumption that I must be working in the ER or an ICU (especially as a woman, the assumption seems to be that I crave adrenaline as a rider). In fact, I am in nursing leadership and education. I love to ride for many of the same reasons that I love hiking, backpacking, and kayaking in the PNW: traveling in the elements of nature, experiencing our beautiful state. My nursing profession does bring a dedication to safety of myself and others (in riding and in life).

Lane sharing was not something I was familiar with until I rode in California. It was intimidating at first, but only in the way that anything is intimidating the first time you try it. I was amazed as the cars that were stopped in traffic intentionally made space for me to carefully ride through. My sense of safety increased dramatically on highways and freeways, as I now had space where I could be more protected in stop and go traffic.

As a former researcher, I am dedicated to data driven decision-making. The data that does exist out of California supports my subjective experience: "Compared with other motorcyclists, lane-splitting motorcyclists were more likely to ride on weekdays and during commute hours, use better helmets, and travel at lower speeds. Lane-splitting motorcyclists were also less likely to have been using alcohol and less likely to have been carrying a passenger. Also compared with other motorcyclists involved in a collision, lane-splitting riders were less likely to suffer head injury (9 percent versus 17 percent), torso injury (19 percent versus 29 percent) and fatal injury (1.2 percent versus 3 percent)" (Yang, 2015).

I believe that SB574 as written clearly states where and when Lane Sharing would be legal in Oregon, increasing the safety for riders and potentially decreasing congestion. I strongly urge you to support SB574 for these reasons.

Warmest regards,

Gayle Murphy, MN RN CMSRN

Yang, S. (2015, July 09). Is motorcycle lane-splitting safe? New report says it can be. Retrieved March 02, 2021, from <https://news.berkeley.edu/2015/05/29/motorcycle-lanesplitting-report/>