

Submitter: Jessica Bernardini
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: SB422

I am an Oregon motorcyclist and attorney, and I support SB 422. The motorcycle community has backed this bill for the last three attempts and its time this bill passes!

Many non-motorcyclists will argue that this bill will require people to become familiar with new traffic patterns or that motorcyclist will ride out of control. These are lazy arguments for opposing a bill that increases motorcyclists' safety.

First, if you're a licensed motorist, you have a duty to be aware of new traffic patterns on a daily basis. There's not much that this bill asks of motorist--stay in your lane while sitting in traffic and don't use your car as a weapon when a motorcyclist is driving between vehicles at a safe speed.

Second, there will always be motorcyclists and motorist that drive out of control and illegally. The passing of this bill is not going to legalize out of control driving or create implied consent of unsafe riding.

Lastly, if a motorcyclist doesn't want to lane filter - they don't have to. There will be many riders that do not take advantage of this bill simply because they do not have the experience with lane filtering. There are many of us that will use this legal form of riding to be out of harm's way, continue moving along when it's very warm out, and to keep traffic as a whole moving. One less car means less traffic - this bill will likely increase riders taking motorcycles during rush hour, helping to decrease traffic.

We hope that this is the year that this bill passes! Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.