

January 25, 2018

Testimony in Support of SB 274

Chairman Mike Petersen and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee:

I am writing in support of SB 274. On July 22nd, 2017, I was riding my bicycle through Douglass, Kansas and I was struck from behind by a passing motorist. Prior to being struck I was riding to the farthest right side of my lane as deemed safely. I was thrown from my bicycle and landed in a ditch. I suffered several injuries as a result from this totally preventable accident. Some of these injuries I am still dealing with today. I have no idea why this driver didn't give me at least 3 feet while passing. Looking back, I think I would be safe to assume he was texting or being distracted. The driver was arrested for driving under suspension, no insurance, and given a ticket for failure to yield to a pedestrian. I was struck by a vehicle and all he was given was a failure to yield to a pedestrian!

I am a wife, mother, and daughter. I have been cycling for numerous years and have biked thousands of miles. Being hit is always in the back of my mind, hence why I make myself visible by my clothing, I obey the laws as if I were a vehicle, and I ride defensively. None of which protected me that afternoon. It is an unfair fight between a vehicle and a bicycle. This man who was distracted or had no regard for the law, came close to ending my life or having my life look very different today. The sound of his vehicle hitting my bike is one that I will never forget. Not to mention he took from me a love for riding and turned it into a constant fear while on the road.

I ask for laws that prohibit texting and driving and stronger punishments be administered to distracted drivers or those drivers who neglect to give 3 feet when passing a cyclist. I had to endure months of physical therapy and pain because of this man and once again all he was given was a failure to yield ticket. Things need to change.

Thank you for time.

Sincerely,

Becky Hall
948 S Greeley Ln
Andover, KS 67002
luv2bike@live.com