



Testimony in support of
H.3118/S.2042 An Act to reduce traffic fatalities
Submitted to the Joint Committee on Transportation
By Lois A. Levin, LWVMA Transportation Specialist
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The LWVMA believes that this bill strongly deserves the support of the Joint Committee, as it would improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and other vulnerable road users.

The last omnibus safety bill was enacted well over a decade ago. We now have considerably more cars on our roads, and far too many injuries and deaths that could have been prevented. Some motorists mistakenly assume that our roads are exclusively for the use of motor vehicles, but roads are also for vulnerable road users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, and people with disabilities are not intruders; they are citizens who cannot or choose not to drive.

The passage of this bill will immediately improve safety and save lives, as it will require truck side guards to protect vulnerable users from falling underneath a vehicle, reduce the default speed limit to 25 miles per hour, require bicycles to have a red rear light and red reflector at night, and require motor vehicles to pass at least three feet from vulnerable road users, as it has been well-documented that this is a safe distance.

The enactment of this bill will encourage more people to walk and bike and will encourage those who have chosen to limit these activities because of fear of serious injury and loss of life to walk and bike again.

The LWVMA, representing 47 local Leagues from Cape Cod to the Berkshires, has long supported viable alternatives to reducing vehicle miles traveled and urges you to make streets safer for vulnerable road users by reporting this bill out with a favorable recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration.