



09/09/2016

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee:

Lakeshore Cycling Coalition, LCC, is enthusiastically supporting the bicycle safety package before this committee. I strongly urge you to vote in favor SB1029, SB1030, SB1076, SB1077, and SB1078. Collectively, these bills protect vulnerable roadway users, create clear standards for how to safely pass a bicyclist, and improve driver's education in Michigan to put a great emphasis on bicycle safety.

As an avid cyclist, and chair of the LCC, the roads are a wonderful place to get exercise, be outdoors, and enjoy the beauty of this wonderful state. They are, unfortunately, a dangerous place to ride at times. The news has been filled far too much with reports of injury and death due to encounters between vehicles and vulnerable road users such as bikes, runners, pedestrians, and many other forms of non-motorized transportation. I have personally experienced some close calls and outright aggression towards me and others in my group. One was actually caught on video. Because there are no, or vague, laws regarding safe passing and other matters which affect safety of all users, vehicles included, law enforcement did not feel like the case was strong enough to pursue legal action against the aggressive driver. Despite video evidence showing the vehicle was dangerously close to me and the driver holding his middle finger up as the vehicle sped away it appears that the case was not strong enough to convict the driver of any crime. This unacceptable behavior will likely continue and will increase the danger for all on the road.

At LCC we have been actively engaging with law enforcement to organize a safety expo, develop an incident reporting protocol, and trying to educate all road users on existing laws and best practices to increase safety. It will be great to be able to share that there are new laws that will enhance safety, increase penalties, and make it clear that we are all equally entitled to public roadway use.

Lakeshore Cycling Coalition is very encouraged at the extensive public support for these bills and the wide bipartisan support among the legislature. Thank you in advance for your leadership in supporting these common sense bills.

Sincerely,

Tim Bochenek
Chair, Lakeshore Cycling Coalition