

September 13, 2016

Michigan Senate
Judiciary Committee
Testimony of Support for SB1029 - "Vulnerable Roadway User"

I would like to thank Chairman Jones and the distinguished members of this committee for allowing me to testify in support of Senate Bill 1029 (SB1029).

For me, a person in a motorized chair, this bill is extremely important because I was a victim of a car / wheelchair collision that caused damage to my only transportation devise that allows me to be mobile throughout the community. Even though I was not seriously injured, the outcomes of this accident could have been tragically different.

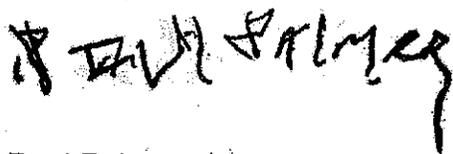
My mobility devise gives me the ability to advocate for people with disabilities and promote policy changes that impacts the lives of people with disabilities and others as well. I take great pride being an advocate; working to improve the lives of the people in Michigan. The bill we have in front of us, SB1029, will provide vulnerable roadway users the same protections as farmers have had since 1949, and will help protect everyone who enters our public roads.

As the cost of transportation for people with disabilities increases, alternative methods of transportation expand as well. More and more people with disabilities enter our public highways with electronic mobility devices, by walking, the use of personally propelled devices, as well as using walkers or crutches. A vulnerable roadway user can be any person on this committee, in this room, or throughout the state, who enters the public roadway system by any method mentioned above.

We also must not forget that cyclist are as vulnerable as people with disabilities using our public roads. I urge you to support SB1029 and help protect the lives and wellbeing of the people in Michigan.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to testify before you today. I am available to answer your questions regarding my testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Palmer". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Paul Palmer
Disability Advocate
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