Cath Petroskey

From: Erica <briggswhitacre@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 10:21 PM
To: Cath Petroskey
Cc: Aneta Kiersnowski; Robert Gordon
Subject: Support for HB 4265
Attachments: WBWC_statement_HB4265.pdf

Good evening,

Please see our attached statement of support for HB 4265. We respectfully request that it is included with testimony to House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in advance of the 10:30am hearing on the topic.

Many thanks,

Erica Briggs
WBWC Chair
cell:734.355.3931

Cath Petroskey

From: Campbell Lovett <scclovett@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 10:03 AM
To: Cath Petroskey
Cc: aneta@lmb.org
Subject: HB 4265

I am writing with the request that this letter be included in the testimony of January 16, 2018 regarding HB 4265.

Representative Tristan Cole
Chairman, House Transportation and Infrastructure Commitee

Dear Representative Cole:

Like road crews, for whom most motorists respectfully slow down and move over, bicylists are vulnerable to faster and heavier vehicles on the road. Unlike road crews and emergency vehicles, there is no law that mandates both a slower speed and safe minimum passing distance for passing bicyclists. Having been run off the road numerous times by vehicles well within the currently prescribed passing distance, I know that a five-foot passing requirement will mean that both motorists and bicylists will arrive home safely. A five-foot passing bill will help protect the vulnerable and foster respect for all who share the road. Please do not strip HB 4265 of a specified minimum distance requirement (five-feet). There is nothing to lose - other than the lives of more Michigan cyclists. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Campbell Lovett

6134 Oakpark Trail
Haslett, MI 48840
517-599-1638

Representative Holly Hughes
Michigan House of Representatives
91st District

Dear Representative Holly Hughes,

Thank you for your efforts on the Safe Passing Bill. As you know several cities in Michigan have already approved city ordinances that protect bicyclists including; Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Muskegon and Norton Shores. They have successfully approved a five foot clearance from a passing vehicle in these communities to give law enforcement an objective standard for enforcement. Significant interest continues to grow around the state as more and more communities are passing ordinances to protect our bicyclists.

It is time for Michigan to step up and pass a law that gives bicyclists an objective standard of safety. Even though police officers know any type of law or ordinance will be difficult to enforce it is important to give them a chance to enforce the law by giving them an objective measure instead of subjective language which will make it impossible to enforce. As the Chief of Police in the City of Norton Shores, I am proud that our community passed a five foot safe passing ordinance to enhance tourism and safety within our city. We have used the new ordinance to raise public awareness through education. Education is the key to safety in Michigan. Thank you again for your time and efforts on this important task.

Jon Gale

Chief of Police

Norton Shores Police Department

(Cell)231-578-8154

Cath Petroskey

From: Karen Ferrara <karen.ferrara@wmich.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 7:02 AM
To: Cath Petroskey
Cc: League of Michigan Bicyclists
Subject: Addressing bill on January 16

Please pass the 5 foot bill for us bicyclists.
I ride my bike to work and everywhere.

Karen Ferrara☺

Cath Petroskey

From: Ron Zeeb <ron.zeeb@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 11:36 PM
To: Cath Petroskey
Subject: 5' passing

Dear Committee Clerk,
I think/know this law would make cycling safer than it is now. I've been riding with a group or myself and have had drivers come way to close.
Apparently they don't feel it's necessary to give us a safe distance when passing. A very good friend of mine, Bill Petry a professor at LCC, was killed while riding on Canal Road. It was a clear day with Bill and the driver of the truck, who killed him, were the only vehicles on the road at the time of the accident. If the driver would have passed at a safe distance Bill would be with us now. Please allow this law to be passed. It would make cycling safer and reduce deaths by making it illegal to pass a cyclist within 5'.
Sincerely,
Ron Zeeb
Sent from my iPad

Cath Petroskey

From: Dan Kasischke <dkaz75@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 9:59 PM
To: Cath Petroskey
Subject: 5 feet

Please keep this issue in the bill under discussion. Lives are at stake here and I truly believe adding this legislation would be a good thing. I am an avid cyclist and can say from experience that something needs to be done. Thanks in advance for your consideration in 5is matter.

Dan Kasischke
Williamston, MI

Sent from my iPad

Cath Petroskey

From: Lisa Martin <asila190659@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 7:38 PM
To: Cath Petroskey
Subject: SB 4265 - 5-Foot Passing Legislation

Representative Triston Cole:

I support the 5-foot passing law. This is about SAFETY FOR BICYCLISTS and MOTORISTS.

Please do not remove, or replace, language in this Bill to anything other than the requirement that motorists pass bicyclists at a distance of 5 feet.

Without this specifically defined distance in the Bill, a safe passing distance would be subjective and inconsistent. A safe passing distance could be interpreted differently by different motorists. It would create a grey area in the Bill and possibly be subject to court interpretation.

As you likely know, statutes and legislation often contain definitions of terms. Define "safe passing distance" for motorists passing bicyclists.

Make the definition of safe distance = 5 feet.

Be smart - be safe. 5-feet!

Thank you for serving our fine State of Michigan,

Lisa Martin
Grand Ledge, MI
Motorist/Bicyclists

Cath Petroskey

From: William Danly <wbdanly56@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 7:07 PM
To: Rep. Triston Cole (District 105); Cath Petroskey
Cc: Aneta Kiersnowski
Subject: House Bill 4265
Attachments: TristonCole0115_2018.PDF

Dear Representative Cole and Cath Petroskey, Committee Clerk:

Enclosed please find a letter concerning proposed legislation that is under consideration at the January 16th House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee hearing. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards, Bill Danly
Cherry Capital Cycling Club

Cath Petroskey

From: Karen Beauregard <karenbeauregard21@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 7:00 PM
To: Cath Petroskey
Cc: Aneta@lmb.org
Subject: 5' Safe Passing Legislation
Attachments: 5' Safe Passing Legislation.docx

Dear Ms. Petroskey -

Please submit my letter, attached, as testimony for the January 16, 2018 hearing on House Bill 4265, the 5' Safe Passing bill.

This legislation is near and dear to my heart - I was nearly killed a few years ago by a truck that passed so close to my bicycle (while I was riding to the right of the white line) that his truck mirror caught me, and dragged me down the road until my front fork collapsed and threw me free. We NEED this legislation.

Thank you -

Karen Beauregard

--

It is not for him to pride himself who loveth his own country, but rather for him who loveth the whole world. The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens. Baha'u'llah

Cath Petroskey

From: Janet Waterstradt <janetwaterstradt@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 6:57 PM
To: Cath Petroskey
Cc: aneta@LMB.org
Subject: Please pass HB 4265

Hi. My name is Janet Waterstradt. I'm writing to urge you to support HB 4265, a bill to establish a safe passing law in Michigan.

I've been riding my bike on Michigan roads for 30+ years. We need this law because there are idiots out there who like to hassle cyclists. I remember a time when I was riding on a quiet country road near Mason and a man passed within inches of me even though there were no other cars on the road and he could have easily used the other lane to pass. If I had moved an inch--perhaps to avoid a pothole--at the same time he was passing, you would have found me dead or seriously injured in the ditch.

Please help to keep us cyclists safe by passing a strong safe passing law.

Please include this letter with testimony on January 16.

Thank you!

Cath Petroskey

From: Jerry Fahner <jerry@fahners.com>
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 6:09 PM
To: Cath Petroskey; aneta@LMB.org
Subject: HB 4265 to Tristan Cole

To Representative Triston Cole:

As an avid bicyclist I, like most bicyclists in the automobile state of Michigan, have had close calls with cars passing me. Many drivers think that they have no obligation to keep their distance and furthermore often think the bicyclist should not even be on the road. I have a friend who has been run off the road, another knocked to the ground and sustained injuries that required surgery. Every year I read about injuries and death of bicyclists in Michigan.

Please strive to keep the five foot rule in HB 4265. That would be a positive step to help with the danger to bicyclists.

Thank You,

Gerald G. Fahner
517-645-2721
adfoiler@fahners.com

Cath Petroskey

From: Lisa Robinson <robinson.lisa.a@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 5:03 PM
To: Cath Petroskey
Subject: HB 4265. C/O Representative Triston Cole, Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

I'm writing in regarding to up coming hearing on this bill. My understanding of the bill is that it includes a 5 ft safe passing area for the safety of bicyclist. Both myself and 14 yr old son have taken up biking in the last two years and have been run off the road by speeding cars and cars passing way to close. One time I felt I was an inch or less from a car passing me and felt very fortunate that I wasn't hit. Please keep the 5 feet distance between cars passing bicyclist in the law.

Thank you.
Lisa Robinson
517.203.9720

The Tri-County Bicycle Association (TCBA) is pleased to support the bicycle safety package of HBs 4185, 4198, 4265, and 5003. Such legislation is needed to ensure that drivers do not create unsafe conditions by passing cyclists too closely and that Michigan driver's education will put a greater emphasis on bicycle safety.

The most common type of bicycle/auto crashes is when a bicyclist was "going straight ahead" prior to a crash. Large vehicles produce strong air currents which can knock cyclists off course if they pass too closely. This is especially dangerous given the bad conditions of our area's roads. Many motorists are unaware of the dangers posed by their actions. Others intentionally pass closely to intimidate bicyclists.

Michigan law is inadequate because it gives a motorist a loose standard: "pass at a safe distance." Moreover, law enforcement is put in a difficult situation. Patrol officers do not have a clearly defined standard.

The Five-Foot Passing bills would set the legal standard for "safe distance." Motorists, bicyclists and law enforcement would get clear guidance that would reduce confusion and frustration. Thus, it will reduce bicyclist injuries and deaths.

TCBA joins others in Michigan in urging you to pass these laws.

Michael Unsworth
Chair, Advocacy Committee
Tri-County Bicycle Association
1518 Haslett Road, Unit 635
Haslett MI 48840
advocacy@biketcba.org
517-282-7515

January 15, 2018

Chairman Tristen Cole
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, MI

Dear Chairman Cole and House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Members:

The Tri-County Bicycle Association (TCBA), from the Lansing area strongly supports HB 4265. This legislation is vital to safeguard the lives of bicyclists in our community. To keep bicyclists safe, this legislation needs to specifically define the minimum distance to pass bicyclists, ideally 5 feet. We urge you not to strip the bill of a specified distance to safely pass a bicyclist.

- *Michigan lags behind other states in protecting bicyclists, pedestrians, and wheelchair users. Bicycle crashes and fatalities continue to rise at an alarming rate. The Office of Highway Safety Planning reports 38 bicyclists were killed in 2016 in Michigan, up a terrifying 81% from 2014. Additionally, 1,959 bicyclists were involved in motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2016. These bills will help prevent future senseless tragedies.*

- *A five-feet passing standard is the minimum distance sufficient to ensure safe passing and to help prevent a driver from striking a cyclist.*

- *Michigan is one of only eleven states without a law specifically requiring motorists to pass bicyclists safely.*

- *The Michigan Department of Transportation and Department of State published a joint PSA urging drivers to pass cyclists with five feet of space. It is time to codify this into state law!*

TCBA and our membership of over 850 people (voters) urges you to help prevent more needless tragedies on Michigan roadways and enact the strongest safe passing law possible by retaining a specified distance in the bill. Thank you in advance for your leadership in supporting these common sense bills.

Sincerely,

Patrick S Kelley, President, TCBA

Andrie Inc.

January 15, 2018

Cath Petroskey
House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909
Email: cpetros@house.mi.gov

Dear Chairman Cole & House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Members:

Andrie Inc. strongly supports HB 4265. This legislation is vital to protect the lives of bicyclists in our community. This legislation needs to specifically define the minimum distance to pass bicyclists, ideally 5 feet, to keep bicyclists safe. We urge you not to strip the bill of a specified distance to safely pass a bicyclist.

Andrie Inc. is a strong supporter of cyclists and non-motorized roadway users for a couple of reasons. One of those reasons is the Andrie Junior Development Cycling Team. Andrie is the title sponsor for the team, which is in its 8th year racing. The team gives kids a chance to become better riders while teaching teamwork and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Secondly, I, President and Chief Executive Officer of Andrie Inc., enjoy cycling and ride my bicycle to work as often as the Michigan weather allows me to. I live 8 miles from my office in downtown Muskegon and am fortunate enough to have a portion of my ride on a bike trail. However, 6 of the 8 miles are on roads without a designated bike lane.

On behalf of Andrie Inc. and myself, I strongly encourage you to support HB 4265, and not strip the bill of a specified distance to safely pass a bicyclist. The Office of Highway Safety Planning reports 38 bicyclists were killed (up 81% from 2014) and 1,959 bicyclists were involved in motor vehicle crashes in Michigan in 2016. A 5-feet passing standard is the minimum distance necessary to ensure safe passing and to help prevent a driver from striking a cyclist.

Cities all over Michigan are outpacing the State Legislature in protecting their local bicyclists. Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Ann Arbor, Portage, Oshtemo Township, and Norton Shores have all adopted 5-foot passing ordinances. Battle Creek has a similar policy and Dearborn will likely soon adopt a 5-foot ordinance as well. Numerous other policies are pending in other communities. A uniform statewide standard will alleviate confusion over a growing patchwork of policies.

Andrie Inc. urges you to help prevent future senseless tragedies on Michigan roadways and endorse the strongest safe passing law possible by retaining a specified distance in the bill.

Thank you in advance for your leadership in supporting these common-sense bills and for protecting Michigan's bicyclists, pedestrians, and wheelchair users.

Sincerely,

Stanley R. Andrie
President & Chief Executive Officer

Cc: aneta@lmb.org

561 E. Western Avenue • Muskegon, MI 49442 • 231-728-2226 • Fax 231-726-6747 • http://www.andrie.com

Andrie Inc.

January 15, 2018

Cath Petroskey
House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909
Email: cpetros@house.mi.gov

Dear Chairman Cole & House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Members:

Andrie Inc. is a strong supporter of HB 4265. This legislation is vital to safeguard the lives of bicyclists in our community. To keep bicyclists safe, this legislation needs to specifically define the minimum distance to pass bicyclists, ideally 5 feet. We urge you not to strip the bill of a specified distance to safely pass a bicyclist.

I am a frequent rider in West Michigan and put hundreds of miles on my bike every year. I cycle primarily in the Muskegon/Spring Lake/Grand Haven area and I have had several encounters with cars very close to over taking me. Andrie Inc. is the title sponsor for a junior cycling team in the area and we feel strongly about increasing the safety for all road participants.

- Michigan lags behind other States in protecting bicyclists. Bicycle crashes and fatalities continue to rise at an alarming rate. The Office of Highway Safety Planning reports 38 bicyclists were killed in 2016 in Michigan, up a terrifying 81% from 2014. Additionally, 1,959 bicyclists were involved in motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2016. These bills will help prevent future senseless tragedies.
- A five-feet passing standard is the minimum distance sufficient to ensure safe passing and to help prevent a driver from striking a cyclist.
- Michigan is one of only eleven states without a law specifically requiring motorists to pass bicyclists safely.
- Cities all over Michigan are outpacing the State Legislature in protecting their local bicyclists. Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Ann Arbor, Portage, Oshtemo Township, and Norton Shores have all adopted five-foot passing ordinances. Battle Creek has a similar policy and Dearborn will likely soon adopt a five-foot ordinance as well. Numerous other policies are pending in other communities. A uniform statewide standard will alleviate confusion over a growing patchwork of policies.
- The Michigan Department of Transportation and Department of State published a joint PSA urging drivers to pass cyclists with five feet of space. It is time to codify this into state law!
- Grand Rapids' recent "Driving Change" campaign featured their five-foot safe passing ordinance as a basis for educating drivers in how to safely interact with bicyclists with great success. The effort resulted in an 82% reduction in fatal or serious injuries from bicycle-involved crashes.

Please help to prevent more needless tragedies on Michigan roadways and enact the strongest safe passing law possible by retaining a specified distance in the bill. Thank you in advance for your leadership in supporting these common-sense bills.

Sincerely,

Jochen U Haehner, MBA CPA
Chief Financial Officer

Cc: aneta@lmb.org

561 E. Western Avenue • Muskegon, MI 49442 • 231-728-2226 • Fax 231-726-6747 • http://www.andrie.com

Cath Petroskey

From: Thor <tbmisc@charter.net>
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 10:43 AM
To: Cath Petroskey
Cc: aneta@LMB.org
Subject: HB 4265 - support

Dear Petroskey,

Please pass my support for HB 4265 which establishes a minimum clearance for cars passing bicyclists on to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

This legislation is vital to safeguard the lives of bicyclists in my community. To keep bicyclists safe, this legislation needs to specifically define the minimum distance to pass bicyclists.

While the vast majority of motorists already provide more than 5 feet when passing a bicycle, there are a few that don't. My experience is that most of the motorists that pass closely do so because they are in a hurry or simply don't recognize the potential hazards of passing to close. Having a specified distance would really help in training motorists as to what is appropriate. It provides an objective goal and an enforceable standard. The current standard of a "safe" distance is vague. The determination of a "safe" distance is subjective unless an incident occurs at which point some has already been injured. In providing safe roads, we should be proactive not just reactive.

Please help prevent more needless tragedies on Michigan roadways by enacting the strongest safe passing law possible by retaining a specified distance in the bill. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue!

Sincerely,

Thoralf Brecht

Midland, Michigan

Cath Petroskey

From: Shelly <shellyboeve@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 10:26 AM
To: Cath Petroskey
Cc: aneta@LMP.org
Subject: Safe Passing Legislation

To Whom it May Concern,
This is a strongly personal matter to us. My husband and I belong to a tandem biking club. Last year about this time, a friend and fellow-club member was killed by a motorist as she and her husband were tandem riding. Shelley Pullium was killed immediately and her husband, Rick Pullium spent months in the hospital and Rehab Facility. I am writing to express my support for the 5' Safe Passing Legislation. My husband and I are avid bikers. I ride an average of 100 miles per week during the riding season. 2,000 miles is around my season average. I am a 56 year old wife, mom and grandma. My husband rides these 2,000 miles with me, plus commutes back and forth to work each day, year round, in Michigan weather so his annual average is much higher than mine. The 2,000 miles we ride together are on a tandem bike. In good conditions, we are easily maintaining 20 mph speed. There's hardly a time out on the roads where people don't yell out the window, "Use the bike path!" Only they don't say it that nicely. People don't understand that the bike paths have too many rough transitions to use for a lightweight, high-end, high-speed bike. Also, if your dog on a retractable leash or your toddler wanders out in front of us on a bike path, there could be severe injuries to all parties. My husband has been hit by cars several times on his work commute, when he does use the bike path, because cars only look the direction the cars on the road are coming before turning out of their driveways, they don't look the opposite direction of the bike path.
A 3' EASEMENT WILL NOT PROTECT BIKERS BECAUSE CARS **WILL NOT** SLOW DOWN TO MAINTAIN 3'. THEY WILL DRIVE PAST AND SAY, "CLOSE ENOUGH." AT 5', THEY HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE EXCEPT TO SLOW DOWN TO LET THE ONCOMING CAR PAST AND THEN GO AROUND.
We have been passed, on purpose, out of animosity, on a clear country road, so closely that had I reached out to scratch my nose, my elbow would have been hit! Many drivers are of the mind that bikes don't belong on the road. Even if there is, as was that situation, no bike path. My husband used to use the road for his work commute, but it became so dangerous and stressful that he now uses the bike path. He had one driver who took it as his mission to drive 2' behind my husband on the road, then honk long and loud as he passed within inches. EVERY SINGLE DAY!!! Drivers need to be more educated that bikers have rights on the road. The only way this will be taken seriously is if they are mandated to slow down for bikes. Yes, there will be recrimination against the bikers for this new law, just has there has been without it, but eventually, people will accept it and be conditioned to watch and allow for bikers. This law will save lives and encourage those of use who value physical fitness and clean transportation to be able to use the roads with less fear. I am the mother of a severely disabled adult and there isn't a time I'm out on the road that I don't pray for a safe trip so that she doesn't lose a parent, or both of them. This law is needed. **Any compromise to the 5' easement will just encourage the driver to change nothing. 3' is not enough.** Obviously 3' should always be given, but it often isn't. 5' will require a different action from the driver, as it should be for the safety of all riders.
You may contact me for any questions you may have.
Thank you,
Shelly Boeve
14921 Quincy Street
Holland, MI 49424
616-820-4921

Cath Petroskey

From: Thomas Wilson <thomasscot@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 10:22 AM
To: Cath Petroskey
Cc: aneta@lmb.org
Subject: Safe passing laws for bicyclists

I wanted to reiterate my strong support for passing legislation that requires drivers to give cyclists 5 feet when passing. I am a frequent recreational and commuiting cyclist and have experienced way too many close calls from reckless drivers. I have a wife and 3 kids who rely on me being alive and healthy. Cycling is a huge part of my life. It is a keystone to my mental and phsyical health. It is also an outlet for me to decrease my carbon footprint and do right by our planet. Hopefully one day I can confidently teach my children one day how to be a responsible roadway user on both bicycles and in motorvehicles. Please don't let this legislation go by the wayside!

Cath Petroskey

From: Scott Powers <scott@powerlinknow.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 13, 2018 11:49 AM
To: Cath Petroskey
Cc: L M B
Subject: HB 4265, a bill to establish a safe passing law in Michigan for bicyclists.

Cath Petroskey,

Hello, my name is Scott F. Powers and I am writing in support of HB 4265, a bill to establish a safe passing law in Michigan for bicyclists. This legislation is vital to safeguard the lives of bicyclists in my community. To keep bicyclists safe, this legislation needs to specifically define the minimum distance to pass bicyclists, ideally 5 feet.

I believe this is important because I have seen first hand what can happen when drivers and cyclist don't respect each other. I ride with the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, and The Chain Gang. The greater cycling community, and all people who understand that the roads are not limited to automobiles only, need your help to educate and bring to the awareness of all people that 5 feet is necessary for everyone's safety.

Please help prevent more needless tragedies on Michigan roadways by enacting the strongest safe passing law possible by retaining a specified distance in the bill. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue!

Sincerely,

Scott F. Powers
1376 S. Village Circle
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Ph: (269)
217-2994

Cath Petroskey

From: Scott Freeman <scottbefreeman@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 13, 2018 11:12 AM
To: Cath Petroskey
Cc: Aneta Kiersnowski
Subject: 5ft Passing Legislation

Hi:
Please share with the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and Committee Chairman Cole my support for keeping the 5ft distance for safe passing in the proposed safe passing bill. Making the distance smaller or having no distance at all will not protect Michigan's cyclists.
Respectfully,
Scott
S. Freeman
Harrison Township, MI

Cath Petroskey

From: Alex Seddon <alex.ellis.seddon@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 13, 2018 11:04 AM
To: Cath Petroskey
Cc: aneta@lmb.org
Subject: HB 4265 needs the 5ft passing rule left

Hello, my name is Alex Seddon and I am writting in support of HB 4265, a bill to establish a safe passing law in Michigan for bicyclists.

This legislation is vital to safeguard the lives of bicyclists in my community. To keep bicyclists safe, this legislation needs to specifically define the minimum distance to pass bicyclists, ideally 5 feet.

I believe this is important because there is too much ambiguity in our current traffic laws. Drivers are currently expected to "pass at a safe distance". It has been my experience that most drivers do not understand what distance is safe. Drivers will often times pass me with less than a foot between their car and my handlebars. If the driver or myself needed to make a sudden correction or turn. Drivers usually pass me closely when there is on coming traffic, which makes passing even more dangerous.

With a set distance for passing, drivers will know exactly how close they can be to any cyclist, which will improve safety for all road users.

5 feet of passing is no different from the passing distance expected for slow moving traffic, disabled vehicles, and other persons on the side of the road. Cyclists have the right to the same level of safety as other road users.

I ride roughly 3000 miles every year just to get myself to work. The 5 foot passing distance is vitally important to me because I rely upon my bicycle to get to work safely.

Please help prevent more needless tragedies on Michigan roadways by enacting the strongest safe passing law possible by retaining a specified distance in the bill. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue!

Thank you,

Alex Seddon

Cath Petroskey

From:	Brokaw Dale <dbrokaw12@gmail.com>
Sent:	Saturday, January 13, 2018 9:51 AM
To:	Cath Petroskey
Cc:	aneta@lmb.org
Subject:	bill HB4265

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing in support of HB 4265, a bill to establish a safe passing law in Michigan for bicyclists. This legislation is vital to safeguard the lives of bicyclists in my community. To keep bicyclists safe, this legislation needs to specifically define the minimum distance to pass bicyclists, ideally 5 feet. I believe this is important because as a retired driver education instructor, I know that an unspecified passing distance is not interpreted safely by drivers. Some will see safe as an inch and some as a mile. Imagine no rules as to where to stop at a stop sign or traffic light. Our laws are very clear as to where to stop so it is safe. Please help prevent more needless tragedies on Michigan roadways by enacting the strongest safe passing law possible by retaining a specified distance in the bill. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue!

Dale Brokaw
dbrokaw12@gmail.com
231-414-2727

Cath Petroskey

From: Thomas Kolhoff <kolhofft@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 13, 2018 9:31 AM
To: Cath Petroskey
Cc: aneta@lmb.org
Subject: Fwd: HB 4265

Ms. Petroskey,
Please see the below e-mail that I inadvertently sent to a non-working e-mail address. Thank you again for receiving comments concerning HB 4265.

Regards,
Tom Kolhoff

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** kolhofft@hotmail.com
> **Date:** January 12, 2018 at 9:48:25 PM EST
> **To:** cpetros@house.mi.us
> **Cc:** aneta@lmb.org
> **Subject: HB 4265**
>
> Ms. Petroskey,
> I live in Williamston, Michigan and am an avid cyclist riding 1,500+ miles every year, on roads throughout Michigan. I am writing today in support of HB 4265, the bill to establish a safe passing law in Michigan for bicyclists. Every year, I have had numerous encounters with vehicles that pass too close and put me in danger. This legislation is vital to safeguard the lives of bicyclists in my community and throughout Michigan. The proposed 5 foot minimum distance to pass bicyclists is imperative to protect all bicyclists and to prevent needless tragedies resulting from vehicles passing too close and hitting bicyclists. I not only support this legislation but encourage all legislators to insist on the 5 foot passing requirement as a specific distance in the bill. Thank you, and please share my concerns with all legislators. I appreciate the concern to keep all bicyclists safe and to avoid needless tragedies on Michigan roadways.
>
> Regards,
> Tom Kolhoff
> 1541 Nottingham Forest Trail
> Williamston, MI 48895
>
> Sent from my iPad

Cath Petroskey

From: Susan Gardner <smarieg@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 13, 2018 7:24 AM
To: Cath Petroskey
Cc: aneta@LMB.org
Subject: Support for HB 4265

I am writing in support of HB 4265, a bill to establish a safe passing law in Michigan for bicyclists. This legislation is vital to safeguard the lives of bicyclists in my community. To keep bicyclists safe, this legislation needs to specifically define the minimum distance to pass bicyclists, ideally 5 feet. I believe this is important because I have on two occasions been hit by a vehicle side view mirror. Please help prevent more needless tragedies on Michigan roadways by enacting the strongest safe passing law possible by retaining a specified distance in the bill. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue!

Susan Gardner
Ann Arbor, MI

Cath Petroskey

From: Peggy Simon <simonswim@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 10:21 PM
To: Rep. Jim Runestad (District 44); Cath Petroskey
Cc: League of Michigan Bicyclists
Subject: Re: Support for Bicycle safety Bill 4265

Dear Ms Petrosky,

I and all the other Michiganians that ride a bike for pleasure, errands, work, and exercise, hope that you will make sure the bill gets through on Tuesday.

thanks so much.

Peggy

Peggy Simon. BSN
Retired RN
Certified Fitness Instructor
Volunteer for Youth for Understanding (YFU)
248-701-2039
simonswim@gmail.com

On Jan 5, 2018, at 9:19 AM, Rep. Jim Runestad (District 44) <JimRunestad@house.mi.gov> wrote:

Good morning Peggy,

I would encourage you to call the sponsors of the bills, and ask them to keep working on it. You could also call members of the committee, and the chairperson of the committee, to put the bill up for a vote.

Thanks again for contacting my office.

Warm regards,

Jim Runestad
State Representative
Serving the 44th District
517-373-2616
www.RepJimRunestad.com

From: Peggy Simon [mailto:simonswim@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2018 3:51 PM
To: Rep. Jim Runestad (District 44) <JimRunestad@house.mi.gov>
Subject: Re: Bicycle safety Bill

Cath Petroskey

From: John Knowlton <johnrom719@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 9:29 PM
To: Cath Petroskey
Subject: Please keep the 5 ft. Passing rule!

Ms. Petroskey,

Please pass this along to the Transportation Committee Members:

I encourage the committee to include a rule requiring motorists to pass bicycles with a 5 ft. margin. I understand that a law can't necessarily save a life. The laws of physics trump the laws of Michigan. However, action on this matter at the state level sets a standard for all the citizens of Michigan. It sends a message that the lives of cyclists are important. It makes plain that roadways are to be shared by motorized and non-motorized vehicles. It makes clear that we are a people who expect to treat each other with civility.

Sincerely,

John Knowlton
6677 Belgian Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269-330-1119

Cath Petroskey

From: Jessica <jmsejr@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 8:22 PM
To: Cath Petroskey
Cc: League of Michigan Bicyclists
Subject: Bicycle legislation- 5 ft safe riding distance

Dear Clerk Petroskey,

I am writing you to express my utmost support of the 5ft safe passing zone legislation for a safer biking state of Michigan. Please help me by supporting this commitment and ensuring this invaluable legislation is passed. Michigan is largely becoming a state known for its beautiful natural resources and a regional (even national) vacation destination, one way to purely enjoy our states amazing bounties is by bicycle. While our state and local municipalities have made decent strides at creating trails for bicycle recreational use for this, there is still work to be done in this area and we should have the peace of mind to enjoy this healthy, fun and family oriented past time and environmentally friendly mode of transportation EVERYWHERE. We bicyclists must have the assurance of safer riding on main thoroughfares and roadways, this legislation will show the states commitment to cyclists by HELPING keep us safe. My own Mother has introduced me to the awesome sport and I'm happy to share she and I together completed my first (her 10th or so!) pedal across Michigan this last Summer. I was apprehensive to commit to this ride due to the rash of cyclists being hit and injured, or worse killed, by distracted, unskilled, unaware or careless motorists. Set an example Michigan, make it law, make there be consequences to taking away a bicyclists safe distance the same way you do vehicles...enough tickets, warnings and violations will encourage awareness!

What a great state we get to call home, lets walk the talk and show Michigan as a biker friendly state to the nation! Please do not fail this huge segment of Michigan citizens by neglecting this legislation or diminishing it in any way.

Sincerely,
Jessica Knapp
Registered voter and fledgling cycling enthusiast
517-740-9855

Cath Petroskey

From: handcyclist@charter.net
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 6:16 PM
To: Cath Petroskey
Cc: aneta@LMB.org
Subject: new law,

Hello,

The 5 foot passing distance law is an absolute MUST in my opinion. As a handcyclist and using a low riding racing style handcycle, even 5 feet "*safety lane*" really is not enough room because exhaust and debris can still hit me in the head or face as vehicles pass on my left. If you need my input, or would like me to appear in person to put my two cents in on this legislation, I would be more than happy to do so.

There are now thousands of handcyclist out riding and we have a good contingent of them right here in Michigan, so this proposed law will do some good to keep us somewhat safe as we ride along the shoulders of some roads. Additionally, I even purchased and religiously use the new Garmin Radar for my bike which also adds to my safety, but a minimum 5 foot passing lane will surely help as well!

Thank you,

Tom D'Ambrosio – Houghton Lake
Avid handcyclist and handicap advocate

Cath Petroskey

From: Ben Stuart <bpstuart@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 6:08 PM
To: Cath Petroskey
Cc: aneta@lmb.org
Subject: HB 4265

Hello, my name is Ben Stuart and I am writing in support of HB 4265, a bill to establish a safe passing law in Michigan for bicyclists. This legislation is vital to safeguard the lives of bicyclists in my community. To keep bicyclists safe, this legislation needs to specifically define the minimum distance to pass bicyclists, ideally 5 feet. I believe this is important because my safe commute to work and exercise are in jeopardy should this distance be reduced below 5 feet. Cyclists families deserve the right to know that their loved ones are safe while sharing Michigan roads with other vehicles. Please help prevent more needless tragedies on Michigan roadways by enacting the strongest safe passing law possible by retaining a specified distance in the bill. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue!

Ben Stuart

Cath Petroskey

From: Thomas R. Morris <morris@silvermanmorris.com>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 5:17 PM
To: Cath Petroskey
Cc: aneta@lmb.org
Subject: HB 4265, a bill to establish a safe passing law in Michigan for bicyclists

Dear Ms. Petroskey:

I am a cyclist and a member of the League of Michigan Cyclists. I have been a cyclist for over 50 years. I am writing in support of a five-foot safe passing distance.

When I was a child, the civil rights legislation of the 1960s was a new thing. As a young child with little exposure to Black people, I was prone to believe that African Americans were solely to blame for their own problems. The recognition in federal and state law that Blacks are entitled to equal rights helped to change my thinking, and that of others.

When I was a young driver, seat belt usage became mandatory. I know from experience and from statistics that by making usage mandatory, usage increased. Death rates have fallen.

When the smoking of cigarettes in bars and restaurants was forbidden, smoking rates declined.

I observe that many people blame cyclists for their (the cyclists') lack of safety. They point to fools who ride at night, without a light, wearing black, or who otherwise ride carelessly. Some motorists are downright hostile to cyclists. They will give wider berth to a garbage can than to a cyclist because a garbage can does not, in their mind, need to be taught who owns the road. I have ridden thousands of miles by bicycle, and I know from experience that people do this.

The law can and should require, lead and form our behavior in certain areas, like in the examples I provided. One more example is affording cyclists space to be safe. The same should apply to pedestrians and road workers. We need a five-foot passing distance for all vulnerable users of our roadways. Some might find it new and contrary to what they are used to, like not being permitted to smoke in a restaurant, like being required to wear a seatbelt, like being required to recognize members of ethnic and racial minorities as equals, as actual human beings. I am glad those things changed. Please do what you can to encourage our state legislature to make the change for vulnerable roadway users as well. I realize that, like a speed limit, it might not always be obeyed. That's not a reason to not have a speed limit and is not a reason to not pass the five-foot safe-passing rule. Thank you.

Thomas R. Morris
28011 Weymouth Drive
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334

Cath Petroskey

From: irwindanto@aol.com
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 5:16 PM
To: Cath Petroskey
Cc: aneta@lmb.org
Subject: Safe 5ft Bicycle Passing Legislation

Hi Cath,

I am writing to you regarding the 5ft bicycle safe passing legislation.

I support any common sense legislation which will improve this safety of bicyclist who share the road way with trucks and automobiles.

I should be considered an expert on the situation as I have logged roughly 125,000 bicycle miles on Michigan roads since 1979. That's about 10,000 hours.

This may sound silly but I have felt at times some cars pass right through me as they were so close.

I have been hit twice by cars. The second time I was hit by a driver who acknowledged in the police report that he was traveling at 57 mph. Two inches to the right and I would not be writing you or seeing my daughter give birth to my first grandchild in May.

If the driver had gone two inches to the left I would have registered his passing as just another close call.

If a 5 foot rule would help give drivers the idea that 5 inches is a safe passing rule I'm all for it.

Because as you can see just 2" can make a difference. I try hard. I wear bright yellow clothing. I wear a reflective vest with LED lights. I have a $200 "daylight" rated red tail light. I am doing my part.

So please acknowledge a disparity between a 2 ton car against a 200 lb bicyclist. Put a safe passing rule in place.

Thank you,

Irwin Danto
5534 Haverill, West Bloomfield, MI 48322
M:313-999-1071 - O:313-841-1200 - F:313-841-4740
irwindanto@aol.com

Cath Petroskey

From: Andrew Westphal <atwestph@umich.edu>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 4:44 PM
To: Cath Petroskey
Cc: aneta@lmb.org
Subject: Confirming my support for HB 4265

Dear Ms. Petroskey,

I am writing in support of HB 4265, which I hope will establish a safe passing law in Michigan for bicyclists. This legislation is vital to safeguard the lives of bicyclists across our state. I live in Ann Arbor, where this type of legislation is already on the books, and it would be fantastic if this law covered the entire state in a consistent manner. To keep bicyclists safe, this legislation needs to specifically define the minimum distance to pass bicyclists with 5 feet of space.

Although I did not personally know any of these riders, I hope that for the sake of the nine Kalamazoo Chain Gang members, Ann Arbor's own Karen McKeachie, and notable member of the cycling community Michael James Seaman of Mt. Pleasant, the HB 4265 will make our roads safer for cyclists. All of these victims were experienced riders who were killed or injured at the hands of our state's motorists. Please help prevent more needless tragedies on Michigan roadways by enacting the strongest safe passing law possible by retaining a specified distance in the bill.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue!
Andrew Westphal

--
University of Michigan
Ross School of Business
Class of 2018