



S. xxxx - The Cycling Safety Act

The Issue »

Increasing bicycling can reduce congestion and air pollution, give individuals and families cost effective transportation options, and improve health, safety and economic outcomes in our country. Over the last decade at least 200,000 more people started bicycling to work as their primary mode of travel. Studies show that most Americans want to bike more, but they worry about safety.

In 2018, there were 867 people killed while biking in the U.S., more than twice the number of people killed in plane crashes. We have proven solutions to make bicycling safer. In 2019, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) adopted its first report on bicycling safety in 47 years, identifying several solutions for federal implementation. The Cycling Safety Act, sponsored by Senator Schatz [D-HI] will require federal agencies to implement many of the NTSB's recommendations.

What it Does »

Under this bill, the following federal agencies would be required to implement NTSB recommendations:

- » National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) will:
 - » Incorporate bicycle safety features in its New Car Assessment Program and expand the five-star ratings.
 - » Develop performance standards for visibility enhancement systems (i.e. for blindspot detection of vulnerable users); connected vehicle technology, and vehicle headlight systems.
- » Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will:
 - » Include separated bike lanes and intersection safety treatments in the Every Day Counts initiative and Proven Safety Countermeasures program.
 - » Develop methods to better count bicycle and bike share activity.
- » Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office will:
 - » Expand vehicle-to-pedestrian research efforts to ensure bicyclists and other vulnerable users are incorporated into connected vehicle systems.

Why it Matters »

- » The European Union requires cars to be tested for the injury they cause to pedestrians and bicyclists. Cars sold in Europe, of the same make and model sold in the US, cause less injury to pedestrians and cyclists. We need the same testing here in the US.
- » Bicycling and walking fatalities account for 20 percent of all roadway fatalities and are on the rise, in real numbers and as a percentage of overall fatalities. Bicyclist fatalities are most common mid-block when being overtaken by a driver. Common sense infrastructure upgrades like separated bike lanes can reduce the number of fatal cyclist crashes.
- » Connected and automated cars offer the potential of increased safety for people biking and walking, however realizing that potential requires more research, better data and more testing. This bill will ensure that much needed research and testing is done.

Please Cosponsor S.xxxx »

Please co-sponsor S.xxxx, The Cycling Safety Act
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