

DRAFT SUPPORT LETTER FOR DUTCH REACH BILL - ADAPT TO SUIT

Date

Senator or Representative NAME
State Capitol Room ###
Capitol City, State, Zip

**Re: Support for [SENATE/HOUSE/ASSEMBLY] Bill ### (Sponsor's name) – Road Safety:
[Far Hand Reach / Dutch Reach]**

Dear [SENATE/HOUSE/ASSEMBLY] NAME

I am writing in support of [SENATE/HOUSE/ASSEMBLY] Bill] ### -- TITLE OF BILL [eg. Cyclist Safety Far Hand Reach].

[SEVERAL SENTENCES ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION OR YOURSELF AND/OR WHY YOU CARE ABOUT THIS ISSUE eg BEEN DOORED, NEAR DOORED, HAVE INJURED OR KILLED FRIEND OR RELATIVE, FRIGHTENED TO RIDE etc..]

[OTHER STAKEHOLDER REASONS TO SUPPORT BILL: To achieve Vision Zero goals, by increasing safety one encourages bicycling and other active transportation modes which have health, environmental & economic benefits, and reduces traffic congestion and traffic jams due to crashes, reduces burdens on EMS, Police, Emergency Rooms, Hospitals, Courts, Insurance, City Budget, Vehicle damage, Lost employment, Disability costs & other social & personal burdens, and is personal transport with social distancing.]

Multimodal transportation networks are becoming the new normal across [OUR TOWN, CITY, BOROUGH, STATE] With the increase of sharable modes of transportation (bikes, scooters, etc.), the risk for injury and collision has also increased. While OUR DOT has taken steps to make transportation safer for its bicyclists there is still a need to educate drivers on safely interacting with other road users. One particularly dangerous interaction, commonly known as dooring, occurs when a car door is unexpectedly opened in the path of a bicyclist, resulting in a collision. Dooring can lead to serious injuries and even death.

[SB/HR/Assembly BILL ####] will provide a simple solution to avoid dooring incidents by requiring the Department of Motor Vehicles to include the Far Hand Reach, or “Dutch Reach,” method to OUR STATE’s Driver Handbook. The Far Hand Reach method is a simple practice in which the driver will open the door with their right hand which requires their head to pivot towards the window. This simple practice helps the driver check for bikers and cars that are approaching from behind.

[IF ABSENT FROM CURRENT VERSION, RECOMMEND DMV ADD FAR HAND REACH METHOD QUESTIONS TO WRITTEN LICENSE EXAM's QUESTION POOL AND ROAD TEST.]

For these reasons and to make our roads safer for all, [WE / I] strongly support this innovative legislation.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

[YOUR TITLE]

Append footnotes, links, documentation, etc. as appropriate.

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