



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

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TO: Joint Committee on Public Health
FROM: Senator William N. Brownsberger *W.N.B.*
RE: S1117, An Act relative to bicycle safety
DATE: September 22nd, 2015

I am writing to explain my present position on S1117, An Act relative to bicycle safety.

This bill would require helmet use for all cyclists and encourage use of high visibility clothing. I believe bicycle helmets and reflective clothing are indispensable safety accessories for cyclists. However, it dawned on me after filing the legislation, that by making helmet use mandatory, this bill would have the unintended consequence of creating more police stops.

I believe that increased use of bicycle helmets and reflective clothing would benefit public safety, but I do not feel we should mandate their use by law for adults. I am happy to work with your committee to redraft S1117, to make it about encouraging, rather than mandating, safety gear.

