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Rep. Carolyn Tomei
11907 SE 19th Avenue
Milwaukie, OR 97222

Re: HB 2377

Dear Rep. Tomei:

As an attorney who helps Oregonians who have been hurt by reckless, drunk, or just plain careless drivers, I see all too often the results of driving while texting or talking on a cell phone.

I know that the opposition criticized this bill as promoting a "nanny state." They believe that people should be free to take calculated risks without the government stepping in. What they fail to understand is that people are taking those "calculated risks" with lives other than their own. This is not like a seat belt law. This is like a law making it illegal to drive with a heavily tinted front windshield. Or like a drunk driving law.

I help people who have been injured through no fault of their own fight for respect and compensation from the insurance companies. I see all the time how an injury not only cause pain and disability, but can lead to the loss of a job, a home, the hope of an education. An injury can take a parent from a child, or - and as a father I shudder to write this - take a child from a parent, as happened to Peggy Tucker.

So thank you. I sincerely hope and believe that this measure will prevent future Oregonians from needing my services. And that's a good thing!

Your truly,

Joshua Shulman