

House Transportation Committee
February 6, 2013
H.B. 2079
'Right-of-Way' Bill
Testimony of Tim Farr

Good afternoon. My name is Tim Farr. I am Past President of ABATE of Kansas District 4 Representative. I represented Osage, Shawnee, Jefferson and Brown counties of Kansas. I have friends who were killed while riding their motorcycles. One instance occurred many years ago when Steve Oliver was riding northbound on what was Highway 75, now Topeka Boulevard, in south Topeka. He was approaching what was the Tractor Supply Store and as he drove past the entrance, a car pulled out and hit him. Another friend of mine was riding his motorcycle, again in Topeka, northbound on California Avenue at 21st Street. He was in the left-turn lane to turn west onto 21st. The traffic signal allowed him to proceed with his turn. As he made his turn, a dump truck, southbound on California, ran its red light, striking him.

I had an incident on South Topeka Boulevard several years ago. I was in the left southbound lane. A woman pulled out from what was the Howard Johnson motel just as I was approaching. She pulled into the right lane and as I came up next to her, she started moving into the lane I was in. She kept moving further to the left and I had no where to go as there was an island dividing the northbound and southbound traffic. As she got closer to me, I was able to kick the door panel of her car and she locked up her brakes and stopped. I got past her and when I reached a point where I could turn around, I went back. A police officer there and this woman told him that I was scaring her and the officer was ready to arrest me. Fortunately, there was a witness who saw what happened and I was not arrested.

If the penalties for right-of-way violations are more severe, I believe people would be more careful and take the extra time to be sure it is clear before they pull onto a highway or street. The extra second or two taken to make sure the roadway is clear can mean the difference between going on with life or a fatality.

I thank you for the time here today to speak on this subject and I hope you share the concerns of the motorcyclist and ABATE for their safety and welfare.