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**Oregon Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians (O.C.E.P)**

## **Statement for the Record**

**May 15, 2015**

### **SB 694 Lane Splitting for Motorcycles**

Chair McKeown and members of the committee, my name is Katy King and I'm submitting this statement on behalf of OCEP, the Oregon Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians. OCEP is a medical society that has represented physicians specializing in emergency medicine since 1971 and its members share a commitment to improve emergency healthcare for all Oregonians.

OCEP has safety concerns about SB 694. This bill would permit the practice of lane-splitting for motorcycles. Common sense would indicate that motorcycles weaving in and out of slower lanes of traffic on the assumption that drivers won't suddenly try to switch lanes for themselves is simply not a realistic assumption.

California is the only state in the nation where the state does not actively outlaw the practice. The Safe Transportation Research and Education Center at the University of California Berkeley has a study underway on the safety implications of lane-splitting among the almost 8,000 California motorcyclists involved in collisions. The report has limitations due to data that isn't processed yet but it does indicate there's a safety trade off of one type of injury for another when lane splitting. <http://www.ots.ca.gov/pdf/Publications/LaneSplittingReport.pdf>

OCEP urges further consideration of this issue before codifying this potentially dangerous practice into law. Thank you for the opportunity to convey concerns for the record.

