

## Testimony in regards to Senate Bill 1148

### Members of the Transportation Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to address this bill. My name is Nichole Selzler and I am a Registered Nurse in the Trauma Services Department and I work in the area of injury prevention in regards to children in the capacity as the Safe Kids Coordinator for the Bismarck/Mandan area. As I read thru the bill up for discussion today, I do not see where there is any information in regards to safe guards for e bicycles for the children of ND. I did not see in the bill an age requirement that a child must be in order to ride an e bicycle or whether or not a helmet will be required when riding the e bicycle. As an educator in the community and the hospital, I am asked to provide education to both children and parents on the use of a bike helmet when operating a manual pedal bicycle. We see many children in the ER who are riding without helmets and have suffered from a head injury. These children may not have suffered such an injury if they had been riding a bicycle with a helmet. If this bill should pass without provisions in regards to safety, we now could have children operating an e bicycle that can go up 20mph, possibly 28mph. The hospitals of ND could see an increase of head injuries due to an increase of e bicycle usage. There has not been a lot of studies done on safety in regards to the use of e bikes. I did find a study from two tertiary care centers in Israel. Data was collected from children less than 18 years of age that had cranial injuries in relation to e bike usage. 20 patients were included. Seventeen were e bike users and three were hit as pedestrians. Average age was 11 years old and none of the 17 included e bike users were wearing a helmet. 17 out of the 20 patients suffered from skull fractures, to intracerebral contusions, to epidural and subdural hematomas. 3 of these patients had to undergo surgery for depressed skull fractures reduction and one for insertion of intracranial pressure monitoring and of these 20 patients, one child died due to the injuries they obtained riding an e bicycle. I know that this is only one study that I referenced but I think it does hit my point that safety measures need to be addressed in this bill in order to keep the children of North Dakota safe.

Thank you for time

Nichole Selzler RN

Safe Kids Bismarck/Mandan