

THE
University of Vermont
Children's Hospital

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House Committee on Transportation
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Committee Members:

As Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Vermont Robert Larner, MD College of Medicine and as Chief of Pediatrics of the University of Vermont Children's Hospital, I am writing to comment in strong support of H.287, an act relating to ways used for vehicular travel, and hope that the Committee on Transportation will advance it during this year's session.

In my role overseeing our children's hospital for the past 22 years, I have seen patients admitted to our pediatric intensive care unit because of trauma they experienced from not seeing barriers like chains or ropes on rights of way causing these children to be thrown out of vehicles such as dirt bikes, snow mobiles and ATVs and experience serious injury—sometimes life threatening. These are preventable injuries that would not have happened if there was regulation for proper signage (flags or other markings) if chains or other barriers are put in place on a right of way.

Thus I hope your committee will lend its strong support to this bill during your deliberation. If I can be of further assistance in offering my support or connecting you with members of our intensive care or surgical trauma team who can comment just as strongly on this bill, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,



Lewis R. First, MD

LRF:ct