

August 20, 2009

**Comments to the House Transportation Committee on HB5140 –  
Moving vehicles from the roadway after minor accidents**

Madam Chairman and members of the Committee, thanks for the opportunity to speak.

In spite of my accent, I am an American citizen living in the Thumb and Ann Arbor.

I support this bill and I believe it will improve both safety and traffic flow on our roads.

This procedure is already the rule in many places where I have traveled in the USA. Sometimes the signs on the highway say something like:

FENDER BENDER? MOVE VEHICLES TO THE SHOULDER

With minor accidents that do not involve serious injuries, there is a high risk to leave the vehicles blocking any part of the traveled roadway. This is particularly true on high speed highways and freeways, where oncoming cars at normal highway speeds may not recognize the cars are stopped until too late. They then risk joining the same accident, or taking dangerous emergency measures to avoid hitting the stopped vehicles.

With our heavy traffic volumes on many Michigan freeways, it is also a real problem for traffic flow to block even one lane. This can quickly create long traffic jams with risks to those at the back of the lines of being hit from the rear when oncoming cars do not recognize that there is a blockage until the last moment. A student from my school in the last car in such a situation was killed that way.

This is a common sense rule and I ask you to report it out immediately.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Molly V. Walker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Molly Walker  
PO Box 220  
Lexington, MI 48450  
810-376-4220