

January 22, 1972

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF S \_\_\_\_\_, A BILL INTRODUCED  
BY SENATOR WILLIAM SALTONSTALL TO REGULATE THE USE OF  
BICYCLES.

This statement is in support of a bill introduced by Senator William Saltonstall to regulate the use of bicycles. I respectfully urge a favorable hearing.

Bicycle accidents are increasing sharply among young people and adults as the popularity of bicycling as a means of commuting and of recreation increases. A principal contributing factor to many accidents is the lack of clear regulations governing the use of bicycles.

The freedom given bicycles is not welcomed by the bicyclists themselves. The mayor of Cambridge, who bicycles from her home to city hall, said on TV last week that although bicycling is a very efficient and fast way of getting about a town, she feels somewhat scared on the roads. I have bicycled around 150,000 miles in Britain, Europe and Africa as well as this country, and the anarchy of conditions here contrasts sharply with every other country I have ridden in.

There is no need for this anarchy. It breeds danger for the bicyclist and others. It also breeds anger, a precursor to danger, on the part of other road users, motorists, pedestrians and even other bicyclists. A rider without clear duties to observe is also a rider without clear rights.

Bicyclists should be required by law to observe the same rules, where appropriate, as motor vehicles, and to be accorded the same rights of passage.

I strongly support the aims of this bill and I hope the committee will act swiftly and favorably to save more lives from danger and loss.