



Say **NO** to Special Legislation for so-called 'Ridesharing' Companies Uber, Lyft and Sidecar

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Self-proclaimed 'ridesharing' companies want to dodge public-safety requirements.

Unregulated transportation services—Uber, Lyft and Sidecar—would like nothing better than to see the enactment of special legislation permitting them to operate free of local regulatory oversight. Any such legislation would give them free rein to ignore the public safety requirements for taxicabs and limousines required by the majority of American cities. This would be a disastrous move.

'Ridesharing' companies pretend they aren't taxis or limousines. Companies such as Uber, with its uberX service, and Lyft and Sidecar allow passengers to hail vehicles driven by amateur, unregulated drivers through smartphone apps. These companies dispatch drivers and accept passenger payment. They recruit, pay, hire and fire drivers. Dupliciously dubbed "ridesharing" services, these companies want people to believe they are merely technology companies. In reality, these are taxicab and limousine companies.

Cities have varying taxi and limousine needs. There is absolutely no one-size-fits-all. The taxi and limousine requirements of Seattle are significantly different from those of Chicago, Denver, New York City, or any other city.

State-sanctioned 'ridesharing' would pit the state government against key stakeholders.

Legislation would expose the state government to litigation from: families of killed or injured crash victims, wheelchair accessibility advocates, lawfully abiding taxicab and limousine companies, and environmental groups understandably critical of "ridesharing" companies for inundating city streets with an unlimited number of additional for-hire vehicles.

Taxicab deregulation is not the answer. Most American cities view taxicabs as quasi-public utilities—an extension of public transportation. Even so, deregulation was tried during the 1970s and 80s and found to adversely affect service. After this trial, American cities moved to re-regulate the industry. Since then, most cities have governed their taxi environments by insisting on the following:

- **Checking criminal histories** through background checks conducted by law enforcement agencies.
- Requiring that drivers have **commercial auto liability insurance** to cover the vehicle at all times.
- **Providing substantial driver training.**
- **Passing periodic, regulator conducted** vehicle safety and appearance inspections.
- Servicing all areas of cities **without discrimination.**
- Providing **wheelchair-accessible** vehicles either by mandate or voluntarily.
- **Disallowing price-gouging** during peak-volume times, emergencies or natural disasters.

Uber's uberX service, as well as the services provided by Lyft and Sidecar DO NOT COMPLY with the above public safety and community service requirements. If these companies promote state legislation, they'll do so to avoid the cost of mandated public-safety requirements for taxis and limousines, against the will of local leaders and the public they serve.

'Who's Driving You?' is a public safety campaign designed to educate the public about the dangers of unregulated transportation services. It is an initiative of the Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association, an international non-profit trade association whose membership consists of 1,100 regulated transportation companies. For more information, visit www.WhosDrivingYou.org, follow us on Twitter (@WhosDrivingYou) and follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/WhosDrivingYou](https://www.facebook.com/WhosDrivingYou))