

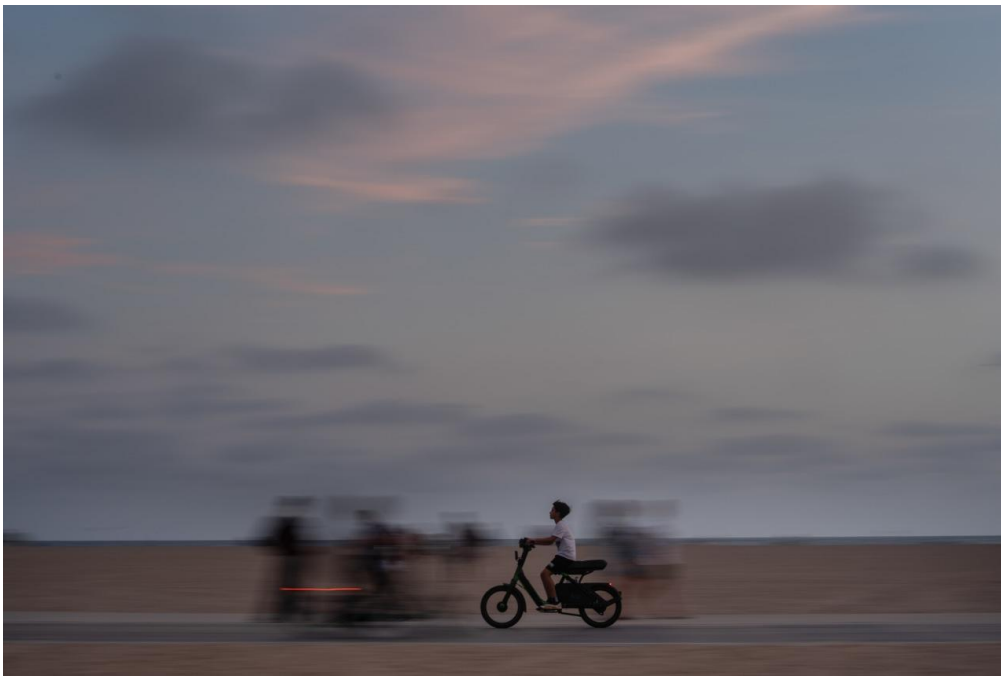
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

WSJ | OPINION

Protect Children From the Dangers of E-Bikes

A pediatrician recommends actions to prevent deaths and injuries.

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Jae C. Hong/Associated Press

Subject: The California District Attorney Cracking Down on the Scourge of E-Bikes, by Jim Calrton, September 24, 2026.

As a pediatrician who lives in Orange County, I applaud the Wall Street Journal's coverage of the youth e-bike crisis and DA Todd Spitzer's efforts to protect children from e-bike-related death and injury.

Some would describe the buyback program as extreme, but the e-bike problem in Orange County is also severe. Combined with the prosecution of parents who knowingly allow children to modify e-bikes or engage in dangerous behavior, this approach has the potential to reduce injury. A C.S.Mott Children's Hospital National Poll found that 67% of parents were not informed about the e-bikes.

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Manufacturers and sellers must also be held accountable and should provide refunds for dangerous vehicles inappropriately sold to parents that their children are not legally allowed to use. This could be modeled after Attorney General Bonta's consumer safety alert which prompted Amazon to stop selling high-speed electric bikes in California.

Local, state, and federal officials should go further to strengthen existing age limits, training requirements, require universal helmet use, and liability insurance for e-bikes and e-scooters.

Ultimately, the US should follow the lead of most other nations in the world and end the use of e-bikes by children under the age of 15, given the ample scientific evidence describing the serious injury pattern

Phyllis Agran, MD, MPH
Irvine, California