



ABATE OF MARYLAND, INC.

Dedicated to the Freedom of the Road and Responsible Motorcycle Legislation

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr. Chairman and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Executive Treasurer, Annie Sanford, ABATE of Maryland, Inc.

DATE: March 11, 2022

RE: SBo745 Vehicle Laws - Protective Headgear Requirement for Motorcycle Riders - Exception

POSITION: Favorable

We wake up every morning not knowing if this will be our last day on earth. Everyday we engage in dangerous activities. The first is getting out of bed. The second is entering the smallest room in the house - the bathroom. Belvedere Health Services reports “up to 80 percent of falls in the home occur in the bathroom. These fall-related injuries can range from minor scrapes and bruises to broken bones, head injury and spinal cord injury.” The most hazardous activities for all ages are bathing, showering and getting out of the tub. Yet, there is no legislation for mandatory grab bars or helmets to protect the entire population while using the bathroom.

As a retired nurse and married for 40 years, my husband and I have traveled many miles (both domestic and international) on our motorcycle. We wear our helmets, even when not required to do so. As responsible adults we CHOOSE to wear our helmets and believe that adults should have the CHOICE whether to wear a helmet or not. Over the years, the Committee has heard testimony pro and con regarding this issue. What you have not heard is my opinion. I am angry that motorcyclists are treated unfairly by the opposition. We are viewed and judged like the Hollywood stereotype of what a motorcyclist is supposed to be. However, in the real world motorcyclists and their passengers are politicians, state and government workers, nurses, veterans, truck drivers, doctors, lawyers, CEO's, business owners, cashiers, retirees, teachers, first responders, athletes, movie stars, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, and grandparents. The list is endless. We pay our taxes, have health insurance and donate our time and money to numerous charities. Treat us as responsible adults and let us make our own decision whether or not to wear a helmet.

Please vote favorably for SB 0745.

Respectfully submitted,
Annie Sanford

Annie Sanford, Executive Treasurer
ABATE of Maryland, Inc.