

Resolution for Support of North Carolina's Current Motorcycle Helmet Law

WHEREAS, in 2014, there were 3,940 reported motorcycle crashes on North Carolina's highways that resulted in 146 persons killed and 3,657 persons injured;

WHEREAS, in 2014 motorcycles represented 11.5% of the total crash fatalities in North Carolina;

WHEREAS, studies indicate that per mile traveled a motorcyclist is approximately 26 times more likely to die in a crash than someone riding in a passenger car;

WHEREAS, traumatic brain injuries are the leading cause of motorcyclist death and among the most severe and costly nonfatal motorcyclist injuries;

WHEREAS, four out of ten motorcyclists hospitalized for traumatic brain injuries still have a related disability after one year;

WHEREAS, North Carolina is number one in the nation for both lives saved and in money saved as a result of our current universal, mandatory helmet law (1);

WHEREAS, states that have repealed their universal motorcycle helmet laws have seen their motorcyclist death, injury and disability rates increase 20% to 40%;

WHEREAS, based on a study of three regional states that enacted a partial repeal of their universal helmet laws, by weakening North Carolina's universal helmet law our state could experience a \$25.4 million increase in health care charges for treating motorcycle trauma (2);

WHEREAS, maintaining North Carolina's current motorcycle helmet laws is consistent with the mission of the Executive Committee for Highway Safety; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Executive Committee for Highway Safety unanimously and strongly supports the current North Carolina universal motorcycle helmet law and opposes any weakening of the law.

APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY
May 8, 2015

- (1) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2012, June 13). *Motorcycle Safety, State Helmet Laws: North Carolina*. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/mc/states/nc.html>
- (2) Naumann et al. *NC Med J*, Impact of North Carolina's Motorcycle Helmet Law on Hospital Admissions and Charges for Care of Traumatic Brain Injuries. 2015: 76(2)

Executive Committee for Highway Safety Members

Anthony J. Tata

Committee Chair

Secretary of Transportation
North Carolina Department of
Transportation

William J. Grey

Colonel

North Carolina State Highway Patrol

Donald K. Nail

Director

North Carolina Governor's Highway
Safety Program

Kelly J. Thomas

Commissioner

North Carolina Division of Motor
Vehicles

Wayne Goodwin

Commissioner

North Carolina Department of
Insurance

Nicholas J. Tennyson

Chief Deputy Secretary

North Carolina Department of
Transportation

W. A. "Tony" Hayes

Chief Executive Officer

North Carolina Indian Economic
Development Initiative

LaRonda S. Scott

State Executive Director

Mothers Against Drunk Driving

David L. Harkey, PE

Director

UNC Highway Safety Research Center

Terry Hopkins, PE

State Traffic Safety Engineer

North Carolina Department of
Transportation

Michael L. Holder, PE

Chief Engineer

North Carolina Department of
Transportation

J. Kevin Lacy, PE, CPM

State Traffic Engineer

North Carolina Department of
Transportation

Jim Westmoreland, PE

City Manager

City of Greensboro

Paul Black

Director

The French Broad River Metropolitan
Planning Organization

Isaac T. Avery, III

Attorney at Law

North Carolina Conference of District
Attorneys

Drexal Pratt

*Director – Division of Health Service
Regulation*

North Carolina Department of Health
and Human Services

Harriet Southerland

State Coordinator

Students Against Destructive Decisions