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March 24, 2010

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SUBJ: H.B. 4747

Dear State Representative,

L. James Hankamp
Secretary
Romulus, MI

On behalf of the over 100,000 people living in Michigan with a life-long disability due to a brain injury, we implore you to **VOTE NO** on H.B. 4747, which would repeal Michigan's over 35 year old motorcycle helmet law.

Kevin J. Arnold
Immediate Past Chairman
Grand Rapids, MI

We can provide you with a multitude of research into this subject from around the country and share reams of pages from the National Highway Safety Transportation Association and other credible sources both private and public; however, I simply want to appeal to your common sense. It simply is better to be wearing a helmet when riding a motorcycle than not to be. Helmets may not prevent a rider's death or serious injury; however, if they survive, it is an undisputed fact that their injuries including a brain injury will be less severe.

Michael F. Dabbs
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From an economics point of view, if the motorcyclist is in an accident with a car, automobile insurance and the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association will likely be paying for services. If the accident does not involve a car then in all likelihood the rider will become a Medicaid recipient. Therefore, **the motorcyclist's right to choose wearing a helmet becomes you and me the insured, or you and me the taxpayer's problem.**

Finally, the motorcyclist's right to choose also has a human affect – their family, as well as society's. The family loses their son or daughter, father or wife. Some company loses an employee and a contributor to their community.

Our Association does not wish to have new members as a result of the repeal of this law! Don't let your legacy of service as a state representative to the State of Michigan be 30 additional fatalities, 127 incapacitating injuries and an additional \$129 M as projected by the Office of Highway Safety Planning.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Dabbs
President