

I spoke with Brandon Bohning in Senator Grassley's office regarding the major push by the NTSB to urge the States to enact full helmet laws. Brandon indicated he would pass the message on to the Senator but not to expect an answer for a couple weeks. Brandon did not seem to be excited about the issue so I asked what it would take to get the issue on the front burner and he replied more communication would help.

Here's some background on the issue thus far -

On September 11, 2007 (sick aren't they?) there was a NTSB (National Traffic Safety Board) board meeting held to cover their "new found" statistics and their plan of action. They did accept questions from the audience but did not take anything into consideration. The statistics they are using have been "cherry picked" from the FARS (Fatality Analysis Reporting System) report. The NTSB has investigated 124,000 airplane tragedies, 10,000 other surface transportation tragedies, but only 6 motorcycle tragedies in the last 40 years.

It is now illegal for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to lobby our government using taxpayer dollars. FHWA gathers data and NHTSA compiles the data for the FARS report. Publicly there are no ties between the NTSB and NHTSA. The NTSB is directly government funded. IF these two agencies are independent of each other, why do they have parallel goals?

Senator Grassley is the Ranking member of the Finance Committee and also sits on the Budget committee.

Here's what we'd like you all to do:

Make contact with your Congressman's and Senator's Washington office via any or all of the means listed below. In your own words, ensure you request action on the following points (be polite!):

The NTSB is not telling the whole truth by using cherry picked statistics to further their goals.

The NTSB and the NHTSA are obviously working together since the NHTSA can not legally lobby.

Both of these government agencies are taxpayer funded and are wasting time and money on an issue that is a small percentage of the total traffic fatality problem.

Begin proceedings to restrict, reduce, or eliminate, their budgets and financial support since they have demonstrated they can not accept the responsibility of the intent of said agencies.

Sign, date, and send to both Senators and your Congressman.

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It is time for this underhanded push to be stopped!

Thank you.

Steve Eggleston
ABATE of Iowa, Inc.
State Legislative Officer

Approved by Steve Rector, State Coordinator