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Making Sure Motorcyclists Are Seen And Heard

10/5/07

The Honorable Geri Huser
Iowa State Representative
213 7th Street N.W.
P. O. Box 335
Altoona, IA, 50009

On September 11, 2007 NTSB (National Traffic Safety Board) said all states need mandatory DOT enforced motorcycle helmet laws. Over the past 40 years NTSB has investigated 124,000 aviation crashes, 10,000 surface transportation crashes (including rail, pipeline and mass transit) and only 6 motorcycle crashes. When the congressionally mandated crash study (PI109-59) was mentioned and its target pool of 1200 motorcycle crash investigations, the board members stated they could not endorse the number as being sufficient enough. They (NTSB) never made any recommendations of education which was a very big part of the two day super symposium on motorcycle safety last fall. This shows that NTSB just doesn't have a congruent or competent plan when addressing motorcycle safety.

ABATE of Iowa believes that the NTSB is not telling the whole truth by cherry picking statistics to further their goals. We further believe the NTSB and NHTSA are working together since NHTSA can not legally lobby. We also believe education and public awareness are some of the best tools available for eliminating motorcycle crashes. That is why ABATE of Iowa has a Mobile Rider Education program, a program called Share the Road that was included in the Right of Way legislative bill, and advertising such as billboards and public service announcements. In the last five years ABATE of Iowa has spent \$503,747.00 on motorcycle safety.

The goal should be motorcycle crash avoidance not safer crashes. States such as, Louisiana and Michigan which have mandatory helmet laws have some of the highest motorcycle fatalities in the country. The two states that are still total freedom of choice states have the highest reduction in motorcycle crashes. This should prove that the states not the federal government should make their own legislative decisions and not be mandated by the federal government.

ABATE of Iowa, as a voice for motorcyclist in Iowa, urges you to let the NTSB know by letter they are not welcome in the State of Iowa spending tax payer's money to lobby against tax payers. Shouldn't this money be used for motorcycle crash avoidance?

Sincerely,

Steve Rector
State Coordinator
ABATE of Iowa, Inc.