

SB 0745

Senator,

I am a 30 + year Motorcycle operator and I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to favorably pass this Protective Headgear Requirement for Motorcycle Riders – Exception. As an experienced rider, I should have the ability to gage whether I need to use a helmet or not depending on the riding conditions, area and road conditions in which I choose to operate my motorcycle. Helmets actually impede our vision and hearing and cause physical issues due to the weight of the helmets, especially when operating motorcycles during the summertime when temperatures can easily exceed 90 plus degrees in that they can and do contribute to heat related illnesses when sitting in traffic. When I started riding motorcycles back in the 80s, there was no helmet law. When it was reinstated in the 90s I chose to (and still do chose to) do most of my riding in Pennsylvania and in other helmet free or choice states, therefore taking money that I spend on every trip out of the tax base of Maryland due to the choices the legislature made back in 1992. Helmets do not protect us from injuries when involved in vehicle accidents. Most of the damage done to our bodies are done to everything below the neck. Yes, head injuries do occur, however; in the 3 accidents I was involved in; 1<sup>st</sup> one in the late 80s, had I had a helmet on my head, I would not be here trying to change your mind. My neck would have been snapped as I literally barely missed (within a half of an inch) a guardrail with my head. Had I had a helmet, my neck would have snapped because of the added bulk.

The additional 2 accidents I was directly involved in, both caused by 4 wheeled motorists who illegally turned or pulled out in front of me, I had my full gear on and my head never hit the ground – not a scratch 1 on my helmet. First accident was minor, second was major and totaled my motorcycle. I did not have the choice of wearing or not wearing headgear during the last two accidents, but had I had the choice, it would have been to NOT wear the helmet.

I HAVE, however, been stricken with heat illness due to the helmet requirement so like I said before, I choose to take my money and myself and my motorcycle up to Pennsylvania in order to ride to escape the ridiculous mandate of the helmet requirement in this state (as do many of my friends and fellow riders)

Many riders chose to do this also, so in short, Maryland is losing revenue and tax dollars and it will continue until this ridiculous mandate is rescinded. You all have given children the right to “choose” whatever gender they want to identify with and are force feeding that to the public at large but you are not giving intelligent adults the right to choose to wear a helmet or not.

If not, I would personally like to see helmets made mandatory in motor vehicle operations, if you all continue to require us to have them on motorcycles. More head trauma incidents are caused by motor vehicle accidents in cars than are caused by motorcycle accidents, however that will not happen as it is already illegal to wear a helmet while operating a 4 wheeled car, truck; etc.... Why is it illegal you ask? According to the police I have spoken with, it impedes hearing and vision of those operating the 4 or more wheeled motor vehicles.

It is exactly the same with the helmet requirement on a motorcycle, It impedes our hearing and vision. In addition, I personally have had peoples’ cigarettes thrown carelessly out of an open window get lodged between my helmet and my face therefore suffering burns that were unnecessary; repeal the helmet Law and allow us to make our choice as to whether we wear them or not.

Respectfully:

Shelli McLane  
1826 Dennings Rd  
New Windsor, Md. 21776  
443-740-1901  
Shelli30gscout@yahoo.com