



*Mission:* To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy *Vision:* Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities

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**SB933: Vehicle Laws - Protective Headgear Requirement for Motorcycle Rides - Exception**

**(In Remembrance of Gary "Pappy" Boward)**

**Hearing Date: March 21, 2023**

**Committee: Judicial Proceedings**

**Position: Unfavorable**

The Maryland Public Health Association urges an unfavorable report on SB 933, a bill to allow exceptions to Maryland's mandatory helmet use while operating a motorcycle law.

In 2020, more than 5,500 motorcyclists died on our roads across the nation; however, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that over 1,800 lives were saved by helmets in 2017. An additional 749 could have been saved if all motorcyclists were wearing helmets. Helmets reduce the risk of a head injury by 69%. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimated that \$1.5 billion could be saved in economic costs if all motorcyclists would wear helmets. <https://www.cdc.gov/transportationsafety/mc/index.html>

Maryland has already endured this unsafe experiment when the helmet requirement was repealed in 1979 and subsequently reinstated in 1992 due to the number of deaths and injuries and the associated costs that increased significantly.

We urge an unfavorable report on SB933.

*The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) is a nonprofit, statewide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders through education, advocacy, and collaboration. We support public policies consistent with our vision of healthy Marylanders living in healthy, equitable, communities. MdPHA is the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association, a nearly 150-year-old professional organization dedicated to improving population health and reducing health disparities that plague our state and our nation.*