

ABATE of Maryland, Inc.



Calvert County Chapter

Position Paper in Favor of SB503 & HB 639

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Pg 1 Opening Statement

Pg 2 Some Cold Hard Realities

Pg 3 Interesting Points of Skewed #s

Pg 5 Fatality Ratios 2021 back to 2016

Pg 11 Fatality Ratios all 50 States 2013

The information here serves only to cover the effectiveness of an all rider helmet law and not the effectiveness of a helmet itself. The actual effectiveness of helmets can only be determined by an accident to death ratio and there is insufficient "accurate" data available to arrive at such a figure.

1) Any data based on miles traveled/vehicle cannot be used for obvious reasons. (Some states reported 0 miles for motorcycles but still reported fatalities for motorcyclists. Over a 9-year period NHTSA reports that the # of registered motorcycles roughly doubled but the total miles traveled for motorcycles stayed nearly the same.)

2) The best way to measure the effectiveness of an all rider helmet law is to compare fatalities to motorcycle registrations ratios between states with all rider laws and "free states", preferably those with similar riding conditions, climate, and length of riding season. Example Montana, a free state is going to have a lower ratio than Georgia, an all rider state for obvious reasons.

3) Much of the opposition's testimony is based on seriously flawed, distorted, cherrypicked, and simply WRONG statistics. The first of these is that 37% of lives could have been saved if all states had an all rider helmet law. This a # they have adopted from NHTSA even though NHTSA's own statistics show this to be false! If the whole "37%" thing is true than why is there not a 37% less fatalities to registrations ratio in states, including Maryland that have all rider helmet laws. See attached ratios that are determined using statistics from NHTSA, FARS, and the Governor's Highway Safety Council. There are now 33 free states and 17 mandatory states with the addition of Missouri and Nebraska as free states. Included here are ratios for all 50 states in 2013 and only states with similar riding seasons for subsequent years. (Note stats on following pages for Missouri are when they were a mandatory state.)

4) Also attached are numerous statistics from the opposition in previous years that are at the very least questionable and a few statistics to put thing in perspective.

5) There are also a number or probable benefits to the fiscal bottom-line by passing SB712. See cold hard realities page.

Some Cold Hard Realities

It is far cheaper to treat a dead patient.

An organ donor can donate organs that could save up to eight lives and tissue matter that could improve up to 50 lives.

Traffic accidents, especially motorcycle accidents, are a good source of organ donors. That's why many in the medical community sarcastically refer to motorcycles as "donorcycles".

A deceased person will no longer receive Social Security and Medicare even though they have paid in for years.

A deceased person will not require Medicare/Medicaid or long-term geriatric care into their 70s, 80s and 90s. A considerable savings to society.

Medical costs of treating traffic accidents is about 2% of total healthcare costs and motorcycle accidents about 2/10 of a percent.

Speeding fatalities are about 5 times (500%) that of unhelmeted riders. But this is not being addressed.

Pedestrian fatalities surpassed total motorcycle fatalities in 2014, 15, 16 by 1463 or 10% over three years and continue to do so.

Insurance rates are not higher in free states than all rider states. Surely the insurance industry has calculated and understands risk better than anyone.

There are 33 free states that have not gone bankrupt due to their reduced helmet laws.

History shows in states that have repealed their mandatory helmet laws there has been an increase in M/C registrations from 30 to almost 100%. (Which explains a lot of the increase in fatalities.) In Maryland in 2016 there were 123,936 motorcycles in Maryland, so an increased of 30% would result in 37,189 more motorcycles registered in Maryland. Let's say the average cost of a motorcycle is \$14,000 so the tax on that is \$840. Multiply that times 37,189 and you get \$31,231,200 tax revenue collected. This doesn't take into account titling fees and registrations every 2 years for 37,189 more motorcycles.

There would also be a positive impact on business as all must be insured and all require maintenance and repair. Most riders will spend considerable money on parts and accessories. Then there is the impact on tourism when we spend our money while recreational riding. All of this is taxed as well. Ask the mayor of Ocean City how motorcycles effect his budget in September.

Some interesting points and skewed #,s

In 2013 there were five free states with a combined # of M/C fatalities (55) which is less than the 59 M/C fatalities here in Maryland alone. This a true fact and perfect example of misrepresenting and "cherry picking" #'s and statistics. The five states were Alaska, Maine, N Dakota, Wyoming and Idaho. Obviously, these states have shorter riding seasons than Maryland.

For the "Doom and Gloom" effect, the opposition always uses 1997 stats for comparisons, a year which had the lowest fatality rate. They always point to the increased # not % of fatalities even though in 1997 there were 3.8 million M/C compared to 6.7 million in 2006 and 8.6 million in 2018.

The opposition always point to any increase in states that adopt freedom of choice but fail to mention the increase in M/C registrations when all rider laws are amended. These increases are between 30 & 100%.

Maryland Institute for EMS (Patricia Gainer) said 27.1% of M/C trauma patients were unhelmeted, Shock Trauma Center said 17% , Trauma Net said 8%. Since we know that helmets don't prevent accidents doesn't that mean that somewhere between 8 and 27 motorcyclists per 100 are not wearing a helmet when they ride? That's not what I see when I'm out on Maryland's roads. When was the last time you saw a rider without a helmet in Maryland? Come on guys, at least get together and pick a number.

Advocates for Highway Safety (Jacquelin Gillan) said there were 11 times more unhelmeted fatalities in free states than there were in all rider states. NO KIDDING, there were probably hundreds of times more riders riding without a helmet in free states. You are probably 11 times more likely to drown swimming than standing on the dock. Advocates for Highway Safety said there was 56% decrease in M/C fatalities after the enactment of the all rider helmet law, Partnership for a Safer Maryland said 36%. Once again people pick a #. Advocates

for Highway Safety also said that \$477 million were saved by the helmet law while Partnership for a Safer Maryland said \$118 million? Once again people pick a #.

Partnership for a Safer Maryland (Jaqueline Milani) quotes the CDC "It's unclear what benefit motorcycle education has". I can't believe this was even said. Even NHTSA says that 25% of fatalities were unlicensed/untrained, even though they represent a much smaller % of total riders. I'm sure that Senators Miller and Stone, who helped enact the Maryland motorcycle program, would see this differently.

FATALITIES TO M/C REGISTRATIONS 2021

	# of Registered M/C	Fatalities	Fatalities per 10K reg M/C
The Free States			
Pennsylvania	385,129*	230	5.97
Delaware	26,729	24	(A) 8.97
Ohio	389,657*	226	5.79
Indiana	234,393	137	(A) 5.84
Illinois	284,754*	176	(A) 6.18
Totals/Average	1,320,662	793	6.00
The Mandatory States			
Maryland	104,783*	80	7.63
Virginia	188,042*	114	6.06
N, Carolina	250,075	233	9.32
W. Virginia	49,563*	29	5.85
Totals/Average	592,463	456	7.70

Even if you take out N. Carolina high rates stats the average for mandatory states would be 6.51 deaths per 10/K M/C registrations compared to 6.00 for free states.

*=Decease from previous year

A=Sharpe increase from past 10-year average

FATALITIES TO M/C REGISTRATIONS 2020

	# of Registered M/C	Fatalities	Fatalities per 10K reg M/C
The Free States			
Pennsylvania	400,550	219	5.47
Delaware	26,594*	15	5.64
Ohio	392,928*	211	5.37
Indiana	230,658*	151	6.55
Illinois	303,917*	153	5.03
Totals/Average	1,354,647	749	5.53
The Mandatory States			
Maryland	111,553*	8.5	7.62
Virginia	196,469	101	5.14
N, Carolina	243,437	192	7.89
W. Virginia	52,915	38	7.18
Totals/Average	604,374	416	6.88

Even if you take out N. Carolina high rates stats the average for mandatory states would be 6.21 deaths 10/K M/C registrations compared to 6.00 for free states.

*=Decease from previous year

FATALITIES TO M/C REGISTRATIONS 2019

	# of registered M/C	Fatalities	Fatalities/10K reg M/C
The Free States			
Pennsylvania	366,641	176	4.80
Delaware	28,312	18	6.36
Ohio	406,543	162	3.98
Indiana	252,280	127	5.46
Illinois	314,802	138	4.38
Totals/Av	1,368,578	621	4.54 average
The Mandatory States			
Maryland	113,195	75	6.26
Virginia	193,813	102	5.26
N. Carolina	187,849	208	11.07
W. Virginia	46,763	28	5.99
Totals/Av	541,620	413	7.63

Even if you take out North Carolina's reported statistics the average for the mandatory states would be 5.79 deaths per 10K registered M/C compared to the 4.54 for the free states.

FATALITIES TO M/C REGISTRATIONS 2018

	# of registered M/C	Fatalities	Fatalities/10K reg M/C
The Free States			
Pennsylvania	393,509	165	4.19
Delaware	26,035	17	6.52
Ohio	388,108	145	3.74
Indiana	231,183	117	5.06
Illinois	300,247	119	3.96
Totals/Av	1,399,081	563	4.20 average
The Mandatory States			
Maryland	114,460	62	5.42
Virginia	200,422	100	4.99
N. Carolina	236,636	191	8.07
W. Virginia	52,641	39	7.41
Totals/Av	604,159	392	6.49

Even if you take out North Carolina's reported statistics the average for the mandatory states would be 5.47 deaths per 10K registered M/C compared to the 4.20 for the free states.

FATALITIES TO M/C REGISTRATIONS 2017

	# of registered M/C	fatalities	fatalities/10K reg M/C
The Free States			
Pennsylvania	377158	187	4.9
Delaware	27810	10	3.5
Ohio	410187	157	3.8
Indiana	250579	149	5.9
Illinois	333943	162	4.8
Totals/Av	1,399,677	665	4.8 average
The Mandatory States			
Maryland	118277	86	7.3
Virginia	193951	117	6.0
N. Carolina	188843	176	9.3
W. Virginia	60582	26	4.3
Totals/Av	561653	405	7.2

Even if you take out North Carolina's reported statistics the average for the mandatory states would be 6.1 deaths per 10K registered M/C compared to the 4.8 for the free states. Where is evidence of 37% lives saved?

FATALITIES TO M/C REGISTRATIONS 2016

	#of registered M/C	fatalities	fatalities/10K reg. M/C
The Free States			
Pennsylvania	393037	191	4.9
Delaware	28158	14	4.9
Ohio	408114	199	5.0
Indiana	223603	101	4.5
Illinois	314807	155	4.9
Totals/Av	1,367,719	660	4.8

The Mandatory States			
Maryland	123936	75	6.1
Virginia	191820	79	4.1
N. Carolina	195618	185	9.5
W. Virginia	61090	29	4.7
Totals/Av	572,464	368	6.4

Fatalities to M/C registrations 2013 all 50 states

	#of registered M/C	Fatalities	fatalities/10K reg M/C
The Free States			
*Illinois	352318	148	4.2
*Iowa	183294	41	2.2
Alaska	32207	2	0.6
Arizona	188360	146	7.8
Colorado	184549	83	4.5
Connecticut	91054	50	5.5
Hawaii	40564	17	4.2
Idaho	64944	24	3.7
Indiana	218630	90	4.1
Kansas	99169	35	3.5
Maine	63114	11	1.7
Minnesota	237259	59	2.5
Montana	171085	32	1.9
New Hampshire	73612	24	3.3
New Mexico	65321	40	6.1
N Dakota	35756	9	2.5
Ohio	402264	130	3.2
Oklahoma	126883	92	7.3
S Dakota	86710	22	2.5
Utah	64970	30	4.6
Wisconsin	323378	81	2.5
Wyoming	31397	9	2.9

Alaska through Wyoming under 18 must wear a helmet

*No law whatsoever pertaining to helmets in these states.

Fatalities to M/C registrations 2013 50 states cont'd

The Free States cont'd

	# of registered M/C	Fatalities	fatalities/10K reg M/C
*Delaware	30056	20	6.7
Arkansas	74196	56	7.5
Kentucky	109821	78	7.1
Pennsylvania	400908	178	4.4
Rhode Island	32252	11	3.4
S Carolina	113315	120	10.5
Texas	443856	487	11.0
Florida	545452	460	8.4
Michigan	267292	127	4.8
Totals/Av	5,153986	2712	5.26

*under 19 must wear a helmet

Arkansas through Michigan under 21 must wear a helmet.

Florida and Michigan require additional 10K of insurance.

Fatalities to M/C registrations 2013 All 50 states cont'd

The mandatory all rider states

	# of registered M/C	Fatalities	Fatalities/10K reg M/C
Alabama	118084	80	6.7
California	799900	447	5.6
Georgia	200133	100	5.0
Louisiana	113778	84	7.4
Maryland	99560	59	5.9
Massachusetts	125122	39	3.1
Mississippi	28433	38	13.4
Missouri	184723	71	3.8
Nebraska	56224	14	2.5
Nevada	70675	50	7.1
New Jersey	152111	55	3.6
New York	345118	168	4.9
N Carolina	195493	134	6.9
Oregon	89797	31	3.5
Tennessee	163820	131	8.0
Vermont	28777	5	1.7
Virginia	189689	63	3.3
W Virginia	58021	24	4.1
Washington	227073	73	3.2
D.C.	4170	3	7.2
Totals/Av	3,001,201	1669	5.56

Slightly higher than the average for the "Free" states?