

Mr. Rick Snyder
Governor – State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing MI 48909

Dear Governor Snyder,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Association of Traffic Accident Investigators (MATAI). MATAI is an organization of over 200 members comprised of Police Officers who investigate serious injury and fatal vehicle crashes, engineers, attorneys, private investigators and others who focus on aspects involving vehicle crashes.

I am writing this letter to urge you NOT to sign any legislation regarding the repeal of the “Helmet Law”. As Investigators, we all too often have to make notifications informing our citizens that a loved one has either been seriously injured or killed in vehicle crash. We have seen the first hand results of these crashes and the injuries suffered. While riding a motorcycle has extra risks for injury and death, riding without a helmet is unthinkable. As investigators, we have worked crashes where a helmet has either saved lives or reduced the injuries received. You are very well aware of the arguments for and against this legislation as this issue has been highly debated for several years. One of the issues that seems to get lost is that driving is a “privilege” and not a “right”. Laws are enacted to protect the public; unfortunately, some view these laws as an infringement on their civil liberties.

Part of the current legislation (House Substitute SB 291) causes further concern. If it were to be adopted, the provisions which require having a motorcycle endorsement for 2 years or an approved motorcycle safety course, obtain the minimum age of 21 and a \$20,000.00 medical benefit security are virtually useless to the Officer on the street. There is no method in place for an Officer to verify that these provisions have been met.

We also stand alongside the National Transportation Safety Board Vice Chairman, Christopher H. Hart’s, letter to the Transportation Committee for the House of Representatives dated October 26, 2011 strongly opposed to the bills pertaining to this proposed change in state law.

Please accept this letter in support of NOT repealing the “Helmet Law”. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kim C. Cole
President – Michigan Association of Traffic Accident Investigators