

SKILLED MOTORCYCLIST ASSOCIATION—RESPONSIBLE, TRAINED AND EDUCATED RIDERS, INC.
(SMARTER @ www.smarter-usa.org | e-mail info@smarter-usa.org · smarterusa@gmail.com)
P.O. Box 121, Scottville, MI 49454-0121

Dan Petterson, Ed.D., President/CEO · Call/Fax (231) 845-9589

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 12, 2013

Contact: Dan Petterson, Ed.D.
(231) 845-9589

SMARTER TO CDC: WALBERG QUESTION IS LUDICROUS

Scottville, MI – The Skilled Motorcyclist Association—Responsible, Trained and Educated Riders, Inc. (SMARTER) has written to Thomas Frieden, M.D., M.P.H., the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in response to an American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) Nov. 21 Action Alert that said U.S. Congressman Tim Walberg (R—MI) had questioned the director about the CDC’s goal related to the use of motorcycle helmets. In its Dec. 4 letter to Dr. Frieden, signed by Dan Petterson, Ed.D., president of SMARTER, the association labels as “ludicrous” the main question posed by Walberg that was included in the AMA materials: “Is it the goal or strategy of the CDC to reduce the use of motorcycles...?”

The letter from SMARTER to Dr. Frieden goes on to say, “The goal for which the Task Force was convened, as described in the ‘Update to Notice of Meeting’ in the *Federal Register*, is clear. The expertise the Task Force provides in considering the findings of systematic reviews on existing research and providing evidence-based options from which decision makers can choose is an invaluable resource for individual motorcyclists and motorcyclist-safety professionals. Representative Walberg’s question and the AMA’s jumping on his bandwagon are simply more attempts in a long line of actions by biker-rights organizations and their mouthpieces to prevent good work from being completed and valuable information from reaching motorcyclists.”

In conclusion, the letter states, “Responsible motorcyclists and the professionals involved in the fight to save lives and prevent or reduce the seriousness of injuries need all the help available.”

SMARTER has prepared a Q&A on the issue to provide the motorcycling community with complete information:

<http://www.smarter-usa.org/documents/NR-2013.12.12-QA.pdf>

SMARTER’s letter to Dr. Frieden:

<http://www.smarter-usa.org/documents/letter-CDC-2013.12.04.pdf>

Read information describing the goal of the CDC Task Force:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-10-23/html/2013-24928.htm>

###

The Skilled Motorcyclist Association—Responsible, Trained and Educated Riders, Inc. (SMARTER) is dedicated to enhancing motorcyclist safety by educating riders and the public for the advancement of responsible riding.