



**EPILEPSY  
FOUNDATION**  
MICHIGAN

*Not another moment lost to seizures™*

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June 9, 2011

Honorable Rick Snyder  
Governor, State of Michigan  
P. O. Box 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Repeal of Michigan Motorcycle Helmet Laws

Dear Governor Snyder,

I am writing to you to urge you to maintain the mandatory motorcycle helmet laws and veto the legislation currently in the Michigan House and Senate should it come to you for signature.

The Epilepsy Foundation has long been a proponent of safety devices, including automobile safety belts, motorcycle helmets and bicycle helmets, and safe use of boats, motorcycles, and other recreational vehicles. Helmets have been proven to prevent head injury, a leading cause of epilepsy.

The evidence in support of helmet use is overwhelming. We base our support on the following:

- About 25 percent of all cases of epilepsy are attributed to some kind of injury to the head.
- Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of head injuries--about 50-60 percent in most studies.
- Motorcyclists without helmets are over three times as likely to suffer a brain injury when compared to those motorcyclists that wear helmets.
- Statistics show that in states where helmets are not required, only 50 percent of motorcyclists wear them. When helmets are voluntary, younger, inexperienced drivers will not wear them, thereby placing them at risk.
- Epilepsy is a chronic condition that can have devastating effects on an individual's life. It affects the entire family and can extract a social cost for treatment and support. The national cost of epilepsy, *excluding social support*, is \$12.5 billion per year.

Please help us prevent head injuries and epilepsy and veto any legislation to change the existing law.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Arlene S. Gorelick, MPH  
President