



## **OPPOSE LB 378:**

### **Repealing Nebraska's Motorcycle Helmet Law Would be a Deadly and Costly Mistake**

**Background:** Nearly each year efforts are mounted to repeal Nebraska's all-rider motorcycle helmet law and this year is no exception. Legislature Bill (LB) 378 is pending and, if enacted, will repeal the state's all-rider helmet law. Thanks to your past advocacy, we have been able to retain Nebraska's all-rider helmet requirement and we are seeking your help again.

**Details:** On Tuesday, February 12, at 1:30 p.m., LB 378 is scheduled to be heard in the Nebraska Legislature Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. The bill is sponsored by Sen. Ben Hansen (District 16) and co-sponsored by Sens. Adam Morfeld (District 46) and Lou Ann Linehan (District 39).

**The Ask:** Please contact Transportation and Telecommunications Committee Members, the Speaker of the Legislature, your Senator and any Senators with whom you have a good relationship and urge them to **OPPOSE LB 378**. If you have had a personal experience with a motorcycle crash or treated riders injured in a crash, please include this information.

#### **Contact Information:**

##### **Transportation and Telecommunications Committee Members:**

**Curt Friesen, Chairperson** (District 34): 402-471-2630; [cfriesen@leg.ne.gov](mailto:cfriesen@leg.ne.gov)

**Suzanne Geist** (District 25): 402-471-2731; [sgeist@leg.ne.gov](mailto:sgeist@leg.ne.gov)

**Joni Albrecht** (District 17): 402-471-2716; [jalbrecht@leg.ne.gov](mailto:jalbrecht@leg.ne.gov)

**Bruce Bostelman** (District 23): 402-471-2719; [bbostelman@leg.ne.gov](mailto:bbostelman@leg.ne.gov)

**Mike Hilgers** (District 21): 402-471-2673; [mhilgers@leg.ne.gov](mailto:mhilgers@leg.ne.gov)

**Dan Hughes** (District 44): 402-471-2805; [dhughes@leg.ne.gov](mailto:dhughes@leg.ne.gov)

**Wendy Deboer** (District 10): 402-471-2718; [wdeboer@leg.ne.gov](mailto:wdeboer@leg.ne.gov)

**Machaela Cavanaugh** (District 6) 402-471-2714; [mcavanaugh@leg.ne.gov](mailto:mcavanaugh@leg.ne.gov)

##### **Speaker of the Legislature:**

**Jim Scheer** (District 19): 402.471.2929; [jscheer@leg.ne.gov](mailto:jscheer@leg.ne.gov)

**Contact information for the full Unicameral Legislature** is [here](#).

#### **Talking Points:**

##### **Dangers:**

- 27 motorcyclists died on Nebraska roads in 2017 according to the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety.<sup>i</sup>
- In 2017, the number of motorcyclists killed on Nebraska roads spiked 35% over 2016.<sup>ii</sup>
- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), motorcycles are the most hazardous form of motor vehicle transportation.<sup>iii</sup>
- Unhelmeted motorcyclists are three times more likely to suffer traumatic brain injuries than helmeted riders in a crash.<sup>iv</sup>
- A recent study in the American Journal of Surgery reported that after Michigan repealed its all-rider helmet law in 2012, the percentage of non-helmeted crash scene fatalities quadrupled.<sup>v</sup> Further, after the repeal, trauma patients who were hospitalized with a head injury rose 14%.<sup>vi</sup>

##### **Costs:**

- In Nebraska, hospital costs for injured motorcyclists dropped 38% in total acute medical charges after the helmet law was implemented.<sup>vii</sup>

- Unhelmeted riders involved in crashes are less likely to have insurance and more likely to have higher hospital costs than helmeted riders in similar crashes.<sup>viii</sup>
- Motorcycle crashes in Nebraska, including the resulting deaths and injuries, were projected to cost over \$65 million dollars in 2017 alone.<sup>ix</sup>
- Following Michigan’s 2012 helmet repeal, a March 2018 report concluded that if helmets had been worn by all the crash-involved motorcyclists in 2015, the total societal costs would have been reduced by between \$185 to \$201 million in 2015 alone.<sup>x</sup>

**Public Support for All-Rider Helmet Law:**

- A May 2018 survey of 900 Nebraskans found *overwhelming support* for retaining the helmet law. The survey conducted by Research Associates found a super majority, **“75% indicated the Nebraska law requiring motorcycle helmets should be continued”**.<sup>xi</sup>
- Support in Nebraska is echoed across the Nation. By an overwhelming majority (more than 82 percent), Americans favor state laws requiring all motorcyclists to wear helmets.<sup>xii</sup>
- Nebraska’s critical all-rider motorcycle helmet law has been preventing deaths and injuries and saving taxpayer dollars for nearly 31 years.<sup>xiii</sup>

**Nebraska’s all-rider motorcycle helmet law is saving lives, preventing life-long brain injuries, and containing associated crash costs. It should not be repealed.**

**VOTE NO - OPPOSE LB 378**

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<sup>i</sup> NDOT-Nebraska Motorcycle Information Packet, August 2018. Available at: <https://dot.nebraska.gov/media/6516/mcinfopacket.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> NDOT- Nebraska Motorcycle Information Packet, August 2018 <http://dot.nebraska.gov/media/6516/mcinfopacket.pdf>.

<sup>iii</sup> The Economic and Societal Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes, 2010 (Revised), NHTSA, May 2015 (Revised), DOT HS 812 013, available at <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/812013.pdf>

<sup>iv</sup> Liu BC, Ivers R, Norton R, Boufous S, Blows S, Lo SK, *Helmets for preventing injury in motorcycle riders (Review)*, *The Cochrane Library*, Issue 1, 2009. Available online at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD004333.pub3/abstract> (Accessed Nov. 11, 2013).

<sup>v</sup> Repeal of the Michigan helmet law: the evolving clinical impact, Striker, Rebecca H. et al., *The American Journal of Surgery* , Volume 211 , Issue 3 , 529 - 533

<sup>vi</sup> Carter PM, Buckley L, Flanagan CA, et al. The Impact of Michigan's Partial Repeal of the Universal Motorcycle Helmet Law on Helmet Use, Fatalities, and Head Injuries. *Am J Public Health*. 2016;107(1):166-172..

<sup>vii</sup> NDOT-HSO Nebraska Motorcycle Information Packet Available at: <http://dot.nebraska.gov/media/6516/mcinfopacket.pdf>.

<sup>viii</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Motorcycle Safety – How to Save Lives and Save Money. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/pdf/mc2012/motorcyclesafetybook.pdf>.

<sup>ix</sup> NDOT-HSO Nebraska Motorcycle Information Packet Available at: <https://dot.nebraska.gov/media/6516/mcinfopacket.pdf>

<sup>x</sup> Kostyniuk, Lidia P., Ph.D, P.E., *Estimate of Reduction in Deaths, Injuries, and Societal Costs in 2015 Michigan Motorcycle Crashes with Helmet Use*, March 2018, University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute.

<sup>xi</sup> NDOT-HSO Nebraska Motorcycle Information Packet Available at: <http://dot.nebraska.gov/media/6516/mcinfopacket.pdf>.

<sup>xii</sup> AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, *2017 Traffic Safety Culture Index, March 2018*. Available at: <https://bit.ly/2GesYcS>

<sup>xiii</sup> Governor’s Highway Safety Association (GHSA), Motorcycles. Available at: <https://www.ghsa.org/state-laws/issues/motorcyclists>.