

# **MRCHS**



**MICHIGAN RESOURCE CENTER FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY, INC**

*Formerly Known as the Traffic Safety Association of Michigan*

June 20, 2006

Governor Jennifer Granholm  
State Capitol Building  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Honorable Governor Granholm,

The Michigan Resource Center for Health and Safety, Inc. (MRCHS), formerly Traffic Safety Association of Michigan), is joining other statewide safety organizations in denouncing the recent decision of legislators to repeal Michigan's longstanding mandatory motorcycle helmet law.

MRCHS is asking you to veto the legislation in consideration of the impact a repeal would have on an already burdened health care system, insurance rates and strapped state budget.

Michigan's helmet law has saved countless lives over the years. How many of us would be wearing safety belts today if 'Let those who ride decide' was our motto? Effective public-policy, zero tolerance laws, mandatory seatbelt laws and strict enforcement are what have convinced many of us to buckle up and have also saved lives thereby reducing costs for all citizens.

Numerous studies and reports by universities and government agencies show the overwhelming benefits of helmets and helmet laws. Many motorcycle riders offer corroborative evidence of the law's efficacy. MRCHS staff has been told many stories by survivors of motorcycle crashes that the helmet was credited with saving their life.

Keeping the helmet law in Michigan is good public policy. It has saved lives, reduced injuries and has helped contain costs. Common sense suggests that Michigan motorists and motorcycle riders are better off with our current helmet law. It is only a small minority of riders that have influenced our legislators. The responsibility of the legislature is to adopt laws that promote the health, safety and welfare of the public. The consequences of repealing this law will mean more deaths and injuries. Which is the outcome that has been experienced by other states that have repealed their helmet law.

A recent EPIC/MRA poll indicated some 70 percent of Michigan voters agree that motorcyclists should be required to wear helmets. This result is consistent with similar Michigan surveys taken in previous years.

We believe that the public has very strong opinions on this issue and we hope that you as Governor will agree and veto this legislation. Logic must prevail over the vocal minority and the failure of the legislature to act responsibly. Having a driver license and motorcycle endorsement carries with it certain responsibilities, including the need to wear a helmet. Is this really too much to ask? We think not. We will all pay a high price for 'Letting those who ride decide.' We need to keep Michigan's helmet law in place.

To view the latest data on the effectiveness of helmet laws visit: [www.dot.NHTSA.gov](http://www.dot.NHTSA.gov) , U.S. DOT National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, or <http://www.nhtsa.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/menuitem.d7975d55e8abbe089ca8e410dba046a0/>

Sincerely,

Mark Churella  
Board Chair  
MRCHS/TSAM, Inc.