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TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee
The Honorable Eric M. Bromwell

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 18, 2016

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 559 – *Vehicle Laws – Protective Headgear Requirement for Motorcycle Riders – Exception*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians (MDACEP), we oppose House Bill 559.

House Bill 559 proposes to make certain exceptions to the current motorcycle helmet law provided an individual is 21, has taken an approved motorcycle rider safety course or is a passenger on a motorcycle operated by an individual who has taken an approved safety course.

The opponents to Maryland's motorcycle helmet requirements have tried to repeal the requirements for a number of years under different proposed exceptions, to no avail. House Bill 559 is clearly aimed at the same objective in a manner that appears to respond to concerns about rider safety.

There is no ambiguity in the data related to the benefits of mandatory helmet laws. In Maryland, the incidence of injury and death decreased dramatically following the passage of the current helmet requirements. No benefit can be gained by putting individuals at risk just because they may have taken an approved safety course. MedChi and MDACEP urge an unfavorable report.

For more information call:

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