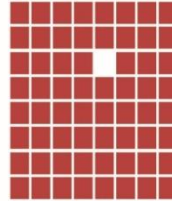# MedChi

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Maryland Chapter
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF
EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

TO:	The Honorable Bobby A. Zirkin, Chair
	Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
	The Honorable Wayne Norman
FROM:	Richard A. Tabuteau
	Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
	J. Steven Wise
	Danna L. Kauffman
DATE:	February 6, 2018
RE:	**OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 439 – *Vehicle Laws – Protective Headgear Requirement for Motorcycle Riders – Exception*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the American College of Emergency Physicians, Maryland Chapter (MDACEP), submit this letter of **opposition** for Senate Bill 439.

Senate Bill 439 proposes to make certain exceptions to the current motorcycle helmet law provided an individual is at least 21 years old and has been licensed to operate a motorcycle for at least 2 years, has taken an approved motorcycle rider safety course, or is a passenger on a motorcycle operated by an individual who has been licensed for 2 years or 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. Senate Bill 439 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 been licensed for more than 2 years or have taken an approved safety course. MedChi and MDACEP urge an unfavorable report.

For more information call:
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