

Testimony HB 2195
Transportation Committee
ABATE

Thank you Chairman Proehl and members of the committee. ABATE appreciates your time and consideration of HB 2195 and look forward to its passage. I would like to thank Chairman Proehl for hearing HB 2195 today as I know how busy your committee is. I am John Faber here today to represent ABATE of Kansas. ABATE represents motorcycle riders across the great state of Kansas.

Right of way violations when a motorcycle is involved are devastating to the motorcyclist and when they happen are almost always unavoidable. It happens in a blink of the eye and by raising awareness, we can and will reduce the number of accidents and deaths with the enactment of this legislation.

Its not just motorcycles that are impacted, a week doesn't go by that you hear on a Kansas News station or paper that someone has pulled out in front of another driver. In December of 2012, my nephew was involved in a right of way violation in Colby. The driver of the other car was traveling 60 miles an hour in a 30 MPH zone, ran a red light and hit my nephew. The driver of the other vehicle was driving under the influence of alcohol for the second time. My nephew has severe brain damage and will never be the same. The other driver served 30 days in jail and went on probation for one year. Just a slap on the wrist considering the damage he did to another human being.

Another good friend was traveling to work at Frontier Ag in Brewster where he was in charge of the grain elevator. As he crossed under I-70 on Highway 24 a car pulled out in front of his motorcycle and he was killed.

We can all recall tragic traffic accidents but we now have an opportunity to do something that will, I am sure, save lives.

ABATE has, in the past, designed a road sign that I'm sure all of you have seen along the roads of Kansas, its the "Be Aware, Motorcycles are everywhere" logo. With this one simple sign, we think that it has had an impact on reducing motorcycle accidents in the state as the number of accident on a yearly basis have been reduced a small amount since their appearance across the state. This one simple sign has helped to raise awareness but we would also like to add an increase in the fine to raise awareness even further.

As we have seen over the last year, accidents and deaths, have increased over the last year, I think its time to take a stand and save a few lives across the state with this change in law

Again thank you for your time and consideration and we look forward to its passage.

Abate Lobbyist
John Faber