

June 12, 2006

The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm  
Governor  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Granholm:

We are writing to urge you to veto **SB 297**, legislation that would repeal Michigan's life-saving all-rider motorcycle helmet law. As leaders of medical, public health and safety organizations, automobile manufacturers and the insurance industry, we know that repeal of the all-rider motorcycle helmet law will result in more deaths, increased brain injuries and additional fiscal burdens on Michigan taxpayers and our state's health care system.

Michigan's all-rider motorcycle helmet law has been a public health and economic success by any measure.

- Since 1969, Michigan's all-rider motorcycle helmet law has resulted in fewer per-capita motorcycle injuries and deaths than in states without such a law.
- Every state that has chosen to repeal its all-rider law has experienced a dramatic drop in helmet use accompanied by a tragic increase in deaths and brain injuries;
- According to a 2004 study by the Michigan State Police Office of Highway Safety Planning, if SB 297 becomes law it is expected that every year 22 more people will die and over 740 will be injured.
- Studies consistently, conclusively and convincingly show that all rider motorcycle helmet laws save lives, reduce the severity of brain injuries, and restrain health care costs and public assistance expenditures.

On behalf of our organizations we urge you to veto this legislation. Your leadership on this issue will have a profound effect on the health and safety of Michigan families for years to come.

Sincerely,

Judith Lee Stone, President  
**Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety**

Peter A. Kuhnmuensch, Executive Director  
**Insurance Institute of Michigan**

Fred Webber, President and CEO  
**Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers**

Mark Odland, Vice President of Operations  
**State Farm Insurance Group**

Michael Dabbs, Executive Director  
**Brain Injury Association of Michigan**

Tom Bissonnette, Executive Director  
**Michigan Nurses Association**

Pat Manion, Executive Director  
**Michigan Emergency Nurses Association and  
National Board of Directors  
Society of Trauma Nurses**

Keith Wilkinson M.D., President  
**Michigan College of Emergency Physicians**

Kevin Kelly, Executive Director  
**Michigan State Medical Society**

J. Charles Bruse, Vice President and  
Assistant General Counsel  
**Allstate Insurance Company**

Steve Boshoven, President  
**Farmers Specialty Lines**