MHA

MICHIGAN HEALTH & HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Advocating for hospitals and the patients they serve.

TO: Members of the House Regulatory Reform Committee

FROM: Chris Mitchell, Manager, Government Relations

DATE: March 24, 2010

SUBJECT: House Bill 4747 – Motorcycle Helmet Law Repeal

MHA Position: OPPOSE

The Michigan Health & Hospital Association strongly opposes House Bill 4747, which would repeal Michigan's mandatory motorcycle helmet law for persons 21 years of age and older. If enacted, this legislation could result in increased insurance and Medicaid costs. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, **"Every single state that has repealed its helmet law has seen a significant increase in fatalities and serious injuries**."

During the past 4 legislative sessions, the **MHA opposed similar legislation due to the fact that crash helmets reduce the severity of injury, the likelihood of death and the overall cost of medical care**. According to the National Department of Transportation, an unhelmeted motorcyclist is 37 percent more likely to need ambulance service, be admitted to a hospital as an inpatient, have higher hospital costs, need neurosurgery and intensive care, need rehabilitation, be permanently impaired, and need long-term care than cyclist who wear a crash helmet. And it should come as no surprise that the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration reports that head injury is the leading cause of death in motorcycle crashes.

The MHA consistently supports public policy that promotes responsible behavior and improves the health status of Michigan residents. **The mandatory helmet law, like the mandatory seat belt law, saves lives**. In addition, the MHA believes that current helmet law is in place to reduce risks to motorcyclists and improve the overall health of citizens of Michigan. **We urge you to oppose HB 4747 and maintain the current mandatory helmet law.**

Please contact Chris Mitchell (cmitchell@mha.org) at (517) 703-8622 at the MHA if you have further questions on this issue.

SPENCER JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

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