

ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

**Resolution 05.2022-04
(A-23)**

Introduced by: Kamal Kishore, MD, FASRS, ISMS Member

Subject: Motorcycle Helmets

Referred to: Governmental Affairs Council

1 Whereas, traumatic brain injury in motorcycle riders can have devastating
2 consequences; and

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4 Whereas, helmet use in motorcyclists can reduce brain injury by 70% according
5 to CDC; and

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7 Whereas, Illinois, Iowa and New Hampshire are the only three states in the U.S.
8 that do not have helmet laws for motorcyclists; and

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10 Whereas, motorcycle accidents are an important public health problem.
11 According to CDC, more than 5,500 motorcyclists died on our roads in 2020 and more
12 than 180,000 were treated in our emergency departments nationwide; and

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14 Whereas, helmet use could potentially save 1.5 billion dollars annually according
15 to CDC; and

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17 Whereas, ISMS plays an important role in improving public safety; therefore, be
18 it

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20 RESOLVED, that ISMS should lobby legislature to pass helmet law for
21 motorcyclists in Illinois.

Fiscal Note:

Existing ISMS policy related to this issue:

House of Delegates adopted Res. 34 (A-91) which directed that the Society: (1) Inform the public of the need for motorcyclists to wear helmets, as a part of its ongoing public

education programs; and (2) Fully support the legislation mandating helmet use for motorcyclists in Illinois. (HOD 1991)

House of Delegates adopted Sub. Res. 47 (A-95) which directed that the Society lobby the legislature of the State of Illinois to pass a law promoting the use of motorcycle helmets while avoiding the constitutionality issues of Illinois vs. Fries. (HOD 1995)

ISMS strongly support a new law in Illinois requiring all motorcyclists to wear helmets. (HOD 2007; Last BOT Review 2011)

House of Delegates adopted Resolution 106 (A-06), as amended, which directed that the Illinois State Medical Society support or cause to be introduced legislation in the State of Illinois that would require all motorcycle users, regardless of age, to wear helmets that meet federal motor vehicle safety standards when driving and using motorcycles on public and private roads. (HOD 2006)

All motorcycle users, regardless of age, should wear helmets that meet federal motor vehicle safety standards when driving and using motorcycles on public and private roads. (HOD 2006; Last BOT Review 2011)

House of Delegates adopted Res. 8 (A-01) which directed that the Society support legislation in the Illinois legislature making the use of protective gear, including helmets, mandatory for drivers and passengers of motorcycles; and that ISMS join an existing coalition with other public service groups that favor such legislation, such as the Illinois State Police, local police departments, local fire departments, and others to enact such legislation. (HOD 2001)

The Illinois State Medical Society supports the use of protective gear, especially helmets, by persons using skateboards, inline skates and kickboard scooters. (HOD 2001; Last BOT Review 2011)

Children age 16 and under should wear bicycle helmets when operating a bicycle or riding as a passenger on a bicycle; and all bicycle riders should wear adequate helmets when operating a bicycle. (HOD 1995; Last BOT Review 2011)

Board of Trustees agreed to encourage statewide bicycle safety efforts for children, including educational programs to encourage greater use of bicycle helmets. (BOT 1994-JAN)

ISMS supports state laws requiring mandatory helmet usage by ATV riders under age 16, prohibiting children under age 12 from operating ATVs, and outlawing the use of ATVs on roadways; advocates mandatory training courses for new purchasers of ATVs and their families and endorses the inclusion of safety features for ATVs. (HOD 2006; BOT 2006-OCT; Last BOT Review 2011)