

Motorcycle Rider's Foundation "Bikers Inside the Beltway" Report from MN Legislative Director Jim Dahling and MN Lobbyist Jill Kielblock

Between the two of us and representatives from ABATE of MN, information was provided to the offices of both of MN's Senators and all 8 Representatives. Due to conflicts in scheduling none of us were able to meet with all 10 individual offices. The MRF positions that were included in the information were:

- **Highway Bill** – urging Congress to continue to include funding for the current grant program that helps fund motorcycle rider education classes and motorist awareness programs
- **HIPAA loophole** – urging Congress to make it illegal for any insurance company to refuse benefits of an injury incurred while legally operating a motorcycle or at a minimum require that insurance companies disclose excluded injuries in advance
- **Consumer Product Safety Commission lead ban** – Provide that the Consumer Product Safety Commission can exempt items containing lead that are not in danger of being ingested by America's youth such as youth motorcycles and ATV's from the banned for future sale
- **National Transportation Safety Board** – Limit the ability of the NTSB to lobby State legislators
- **Mandatory Roadside Motorcycle checkpoints** – Defund any federal attempt to encourage states to conduct motorcycle-only checkpoints
- **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)** – Retain the ban on NHTSA's ability to lobby State legislators using Federal dollars and urge NHTSA to focus on motorcycle crash prevention and rider education and training instead of pursuing mandatory helmet laws
- **Right to Repair** – Support a bill to allow owners of repair facilities and individuals to purchase diagnostic tools, software and training used by manufacturer repair centers or dealerships

We personally met with Senator Amy Klobuchar and her Transportation Policy staff Tim Molino and Travis Talvitie, Senator Al Franken and his Transportation Policy staff Jake Schwitzer, and Congressman Tim Walz (1st CD) and his Transportation Policy staff Brian Kessler. In addition, we met with Transportation Policy Staffer Scott Ferriss from Congressman Keith Ellison's office (5th CD), Staffer Andrew Bahrenburg from Congresswoman Betty McCollum's office (4th CD), and Chief of Staff Cherie Slayton from Congressman Collin Peterson's office (7th CD).

Our impression of all of the meetings was generally positive. Senator Klobuchar is the author of an amendment in the Senate which would lift the ban on sales of youth motorcycles and ATV's and is generally supportive of motorcycle issues. Senator Franken supports the lifting of the lead ban issue, told us that he recognizes helmet issues belong at the state level and not at the federal level. Congressman Walz has always been and continues to be a supporter of our issues and was particularly interested in the motorcycle-only checkpoint issue directing his staff to find out more about this issue. The staff from Congressman Ellison, Congresswoman McCollum, and Congressman Peterson's offices all seemed open and appreciative of our efforts to educate the on our issues.

We didn't get to spend much time with SCVR's WI Legislative Director Mike Deavey but we did see him briefly and know that he and the Wisconsin ABATE delegation worked hard to meet with all of the Wisconsin legislators.