



# Tennessee Motorcyclist

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Memorial  
Legislative Day  
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*United We Ride, Divided We*

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**CONCERNED MOTORCYCLISTS OF TENNESSEE / AMERICAN BIKERS ACTIVE TOWARDS EDUCATION**

## Why Fight ? Freedom vs. Safety

Free or Safe which would you rather be? We have traded our rights away as Americans for the safety of being American. You can be 17 or 18 to join the military and die for your country, but you have to be 21 to have a beer on the way. You can buy cigarettes at 18, but must be 21 to sit in a pub that allows smoking. Now you almost have to be naked to get on an airplane, to protect everyone (but that could make trips to the airport more interesting). Every day the federal government as well as state and local governments pass laws to make us a safer society. As they make society safer they are slowly chewing away at our rights, liberties, and our personal freedoms. Where is the balance? Where is the line between where our right to choose is more important than the government's right to impose their standards on us. Even if it's for our own good?

We now have law regulating everything. We are forced to wear seat belts. We have to wear motorcycle helmets. It's a little thing, but it is a big loss. The government wants to regulate all aspects of our lives, religion, sex, child discipline, marriage, and free speech. This is always under the umbrella argument that it is to "protect society" to make the world a safer place. Safer doesn't always mean better. Life liberty and the pursuit of happiness were the things I remember, not safety, restriction, and controlled bits of glee. I do not want the government that I pay for telling me when where and how I can have fun, raise my kids, get to work or what to wear on my way. The seatbelt came with my car, and yeah I wear it, most of the time. Freedom means I decide if I want to risk my life by not wearing a seatbelt. I decide if I want to ruin my health by smoking cigarettes. I decide if I want my kids to sit in the front seat of my car or on the back of my bike.

One could argue that if I was injured because I didn't wear my helmet that society might incur some kind of expense. Yes, it might happen. But freedom has a price. Our soldiers have gone to war and fought and died so that we can remain free. Freedom always has a cost. But it's worth the price. Ask a veteran.

There's no doubt that when people are free that bad things are going to happen to some people. . When you have freedom and liberty, you have the freedom and liberty to screw up. As I tell my kids, you can make your own choices but you have to live with the consequences.

I think it was Ben Franklin that said anyone that trades freedom for safety deserves neither, I agree. I refuse to trade. I want to be free to pursue my happiness, which means that everyone must be. We as a people can not sit back and assume that Uncle Sam is going to take care of us and that the machinery of government is just going to work without the supervision of the people. Look at Social Security. After all, there's no IQ test to be elected to public office. There are a lot of laws that are just plain stupid. My personal favorite being that one that makes it illegal to use a lasso to catch a fish. Real law, still on the books, no kidding.

We as a people have a duty to watch the government, to protect what is ours. We as a people have to be worthy of deserving freedom. This is not something that was bestowed on us by the founding fathers. We have to maintain it and defend it. If we let freedom and liberty slip away a little at a time, then we are a people who doesn't deserve to be free. By the people and for the people means we the people have to pay attention.

***Reminder !!! Positions up for Election in March '08***

***The Corporate Director, Corporate Legislative Officer, Corporate Secretary, shall be elected every even year in the month of March. Resumes needed by Jan 9th, 2008***