

Ohio House Transportation And Public Safety Committee

Written Testimony In Opposition To H.B. 338

Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

ABATE of Ohio, Inc (American Bikers Aimed toward Education), a State Motorcycle Rights Organization (SMRO) must stand in opposition to H.B. 338. We have concerns about the determination of who is qualified to determine if a public entity meets the National Standards? Is it the individual entity? Do we take their word, or is the certification left to the Motorcycle Ohio Program or the BMV? Either way, this stresses those departments to provide such certification. Also, regardless of any fees charged to private providers, this is using taxpayer funds to support a private entity

Also, there are concerns about oversight in these private providers. Once the fees are paid, where is the oversight of these programs? Do they operate on their own, with no oversight, or is it once again left to MO or the BMV to insure that standards are being maintained? Again, this would strain MO's and BMV's resources, especially if they have to insure the standards of multiple curricula.

In addition, there are safety issues with some of the private providers as far as injuries and fatalities are concerned. These concerns are the reason some States have moved away from private providers and developed their own curricula and programs to insure proper and safe training is insured.

ABATE feels that a quality training program is vital to the safety of both motorcyclists and roadway users, and we believe that H.B. 338 does not insure that these criteria are met.

Thus, ABATE must respectfully stand in opposition to H.B. 338. Once again, thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony, and I will answer any questions that you have.