



A.B.A.T.E. of NY

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Subject: ABATE of NY's Support for the Grieving Families Act

Dear Governor Hochul,

As a proud supporter of ABATE of NY (American Bikers Aimed Toward Education), I am writing in support of the Grieving Families Act, which you have now vetoed three years in a row in spite of broad support from both sides of the aisle, and in both chambers of our legislature.

NHTSA tells us that riders are involved in relatively fewer collisions than cars, but the consequences are far more severe. So the occurrence of "wrongful deaths" in the riding community is something that we face far too often, and the effects on families is devastating.

One of our chapter members is an attorney that represents injury victims, and it's very common for him to have motorcycle riding clients that are struck down by a driver negligently turning left into their path at an intersection. One such rider was a Marine veteran in his 20s that was killed by an elderly driver who reported that she did not see him as he was travelling straight through an intersection in broad daylight and within the speed limit.

We will not identify this man, as the family has requested that we no longer invoke their name because it's just too painful of a memory for them. But perhaps the most egregious tragedy to come out of this is being experienced every single day by this soldier's son.

The son was only one year old when his father was killed in 2010, and therefore he'll never get to learn any of the invaluable lessons that fathers must teach their kids. He'll never be encouraged by his Dad to continue in the face of adversity. Never get to ask his Dad for advice about girls or dating. Never get to call his Dad after hours for a ride home from the party he wasn't supposed to go to.

And because this little boy (now a teenager) and his Dad are from New York, he also never gets to recover damages for the pain and suffering, and in his case, the loss of love and guidance that he should have benefitted from.

Governor Hochul, we don't understand why you think that the potential of increased insurance rates and more cases brought for malpractice are more important than this little boy's future, but we strongly disagree with you. And we hope that, the next time you get to stand up for the innocent victims of wrongful death cases, you'll do the right thing and sign the Grieving Families Act into law!

Sincerely,

My Name and Address:

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