



## **Motorcycle Riders Foundation**

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Statement For The Record  
United States Senate  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Combating Distracted Driving

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation is pleased to offer this statement for the record before the US Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. Today's hearing on distracted driving touched on a lot of issues surrounding the problem. Multiple approaches were addressed with no real agreement on how to tackle the issue. The Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) would like to address the potential solutions to this problem that arguably affect the America motorcycling community worse than any other road users.

The Schumer approach (S 1536) and its companion House bill (HR 3535) would with hold one quarter of all Highway funds owed to a state that does not have an explicit ban of texting while driving. This approach is opposed by the MRF. Withholding State owed monies by the Federal Government is fundamentally wrong and the MRF will oppose any legislation that does. Secondly, singling out the worst form of distracted driving will only force highway users to resort to other forms of communication and continue to drive distracted. We need a much more comprehensive approach. Consider the recent Maine law that bans all forms of distracted driving, not just one.

We do look forward to reading the Rockefeller/Hutchinson bill. If the bill turns out to be similar to the way it was described at today's hearing we will be in full support. Providing resources to the States is the best approach to solving this problem. Letting States determine what is best for their own is the right way to get people to stop driving distracted. Secretary LaHood said it best," number one is education". We need to shift everyone in this country to pay full attention when operating a vehicle. Good laws with proper enforcement and adjudication is the only way to make that shift happen.

We applaud the Committee for taking the first step in solving what is becoming one of the worst safety issues affecting out road users and their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns. Should the Committee have any questions please contact the Washington office of the Motorcycle Riders Foundation

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Jeff Hennie  
Vice President Government Affairs and Public Relations

