

Sample Letter

Date

To a State Senator:

The Honorable (Full Name)
(Office Building), (Room Number)
Texas Senate
Austin, TX 78711

To a State Representatives:

The Honorable (Full Name)
(Office Building), (Room Number)
Texas House of Representatives
Austin, TX 78711

Dear <Senator / Representative _____ >

Para 1. Purpose of the letter: What you want your lawmaker to do.

I urge you to support H.B. 264, Helmet Reform Bill.

Para 2. Why this bill is important to you: personalize your letters.

I've been stopped and ticketed for not wearing a helmet. I had the proper insurance and documents, but was still cited. I had to take off work in order to go to court just to have the ticket thrown out. The total frustration of having to go to court and lose a day's pay because an officer doesn't understand the law is unacceptable.

Para 3. What's wrong / right with the bill:

Currently State law says riders must carry medical insurance to ride without a helmet. The Federal govt. says group medical policies must be available for riders but insurers need not pay benefits for injuries incurred while riding a motorcycle. Therefore this state law mandates that riders purchase a product that does not meet the requirements of the law.

During the 2001 Session Representative Chavez introduced and the House passed HB 2585 to rectify the existing problem. Again the Senate changed the Bill to make it less explicit and the problem has continued to escalate. Officers still do not know the law and continue to write illegal tickets. Stops for non-helmet usage turn into fishing expeditions in some cases resulting in illegal searches. Judges admit to not knowing the law. Riders are forced to ride hundreds of miles, not once but twice, to plead their case in court. Though knowing the case will be won in court most just choose to simply pay the fine rather than go through the motions of a trial. It is far cheaper than losing two days work and spend those days traveling and sitting in courtrooms.

Para 4. Reaffirm your commitment to this issue.

I cannot emphasize to you the importance I put on your vote for H.B. 264. After 7 years, this law needs to be changed to make it easy for everyone to understand it.

Para 5. Ask for a response.

I look forward to hearing your position on this issue.

Sincerely Yours,

Name
Voter Registration #
Address
(Phone Number)