



Talking Points:

A Bill to Address Motorcycle Profiling

Sponsor/Support H.Res.831

➤ Background & Overview

- On July 13, **Congressman Reid Ribble** of Wisconsin introduced House Resolution 831 which addresses the issue of motorcycle profiling. **Congressman Tim Walberg** of Michigan is also an original co-sponsor.
- As a member of the Motorcycle Riders Foundation, we **support legislation that would define and attempt to limit the practice of profiling of motorcyclists** by law enforcement.
- **Two States** (Maryland and Washington) **have already passed similar measures** into law.

➤ Why This Issue is Important

- Increasingly, motorcyclists feel **singled out by law enforcement** because of their **appearance, apparel, or because they are simply riding a motorcycle.**
- According to a recently conducted national survey, over **30% of respondents felt they had been profiled by law enforcement** despite not committing any traffic infractions.
- The stereotype of the “criminal biker,” has been exacerbated by television shows like, “Sons of Anarchy” that depict motorcyclists as dangerous and unlawful citizens; **responsible motorcyclists are suffering the consequences.**
- Riding a motorcycle or wearing related attire is an **individual’s chosen form of expression and is protected under the First Amendment.**
- Further, the **Fourth Amendment** requires that law enforcement have a **reasonable suspicion** that a crime has been, is being, or is about to be committed before stopping a suspect and yet, over 30% of survey respondents believe they have been **pulled over with no apparent reason and are victims of a “stop and frisk.”**
- Riding a motorcycle or wearing motorcycle apparel does **not equate bikers to criminals.** We believe that through education and awareness, this issue can be addressed and mitigated.

➤ What Can Be Done?

- House Resolution 831 is the **first step in addressing the profiling of motorcyclists at the national level.**
- The Resolution **promotes public awareness of motorcycle profiling** and **encourages collaboration and communication** between law enforcement and the motorcycle community.
- Further, it urges state law enforcement officials **to condemn motorcycle profiling in written policies and training materials.**
- As H.Res.831 gains additional co-sponsors and advances through the House, it makes **motorcycle profiling a national discussion** and helps to raise awareness for those states considering the perusal of similar laws like those in Maryland and Washington.

*****Please consider co-sponsoring H.Res.831. You can contact Megan Ekstrom, Vice-President of Government Affairs for the Motorcycle Riders Foundation at megan@mrf.org if you have any questions, comments or concerns.*****