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To: Michigan House Transportation Committee

From: Vince Consiglio, President, ABATE of Michigan

RE: HB 4198, HB 4199

ABATE of Michigan strongly supports the increases in fines and penalties for Distracted Driving. Motorcyclists in Michigan have paid a high price for distracted drivers. Two of our members, Danny & Kathy Yench, were killed last fall by a distracted driver in Jackson County. Increases in penalties and time served for such accidents need to be updated and enforced.

Texting, phone calls, shaving, eating, etc... take the focus of the driver away from the task of driving and paying attention to traffic. With the current condition of our roads, driver awareness and focus should be on driving and not distracted behavior. Current state law is very weak and doesn't promote safe driving.

ABATE of Michigan would like to see changes to the law in that any one killed by a distracted driver receive a minimum of 1 year of jail time or community service if that driver is found to be at fault. Too many times at fault drivers are allowed to pay fines and may lose driving privileges but very few do jail time or community service. Promoting motorcycle awareness and motorcycle safety has been a priority issue for our organization for many years. Motorcyclists in Michigan **STILL pay for the administration of the privatized motorcycle licensing testing administration and have since 1996.**

ABATE of Michigan supports HB 4198, HB 4199, as a 1st step to improve riding and driving in Michigan. Please vote to support these bills. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Thank You,



Vince Consiglio