

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 15-286.

My name is Bruce Downs. I have been a Rider Coach for 14 years, a Site Administrator for ABATE for 9 years, and am the State Coordinator for ABATE of Colorado. We are the state's oldest rider training provider and if not the largest trainer in the state the second largest.

We request that you support this bill.

The intent of the original legislation, written or not, was to make rider training more affordable and available to the people in Colorado. I have watched over the years as subsidies that used to be provided for all classes and levels of training being cut to only license waiver classes and now, as of July 1, 2015, they will cease to exist.

The recent RFP sent out by MOST/CDOT, in my opinion, was a violation of the existing MOST Rules as written and nothing more than twisting semantics. This was both to try and cover what the Rules required MOST to provide and that they hadn't and to create a multi layered bureaucracy with total disregard for the purpose and intent of MOST.

As way of an example per the Rules MOST is to provide quality reviews and inspections. Never in my 9 years as a site administrator both for the mobile program ABATE offers or at the permanent site I ran at FRCC in Westminster did MOST ever show up or provide a site and quality inspection on any of the over 100 classes presented.

The recent legislation created the Motorcycle Operator Safety Advisory Board. Input from the members has been ignored unless it was what MOST and CDOT wanted. Money from the program was spent on campaigns with suggestions from the provider's representatives on where and how the campaign should be conducted being totally ignored. Other suggestions from the training providers that would have had a greater benefit to the riding public were also "blown off" and brushed aside as they did not fit into "MOST's plan".

Additionally, requests to approve new and addition curricula has not been accomplished thus denying the riders of the state more applicable training.

ABATE believes we have a broken program that is beyond repair with those in charge not willing to listen to those directly involved. This department has chosen to ignore the riders that fund the program and will not listen to those that are directly involved in providing the training the program was established for.

I know not all trainers agree. It will take some work on the part of the training providers to continue to provide quality training in Colorado. I believe that there is no one better qualified to determine and offer the training and education needed by the riders in Colorado than those that live it every day.

I and ABATE of Colorado request that you support this bill.

Thank you for your time.