

Representative Francis and Members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is James Snell. I am the Riding Academy Manager at Rawhide Harley Davidson, and I write to testify in support of House Bill 2031 to eliminate the requirement of a Kansas Driver's License requirement to teach motorcycle instruction in the State of Kansas.

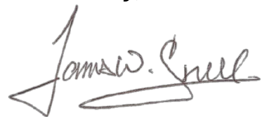
I have been a Motorcycle Safety Foundation RiderCoach since April of 2009. Over the last 16 years, I have taught with the Midwest Motorcycle Training Center, Johnson County Community College, and now as the Riding Academy Manager at Rawhide Harley Davidson, in Olathe, KS. I am also a tenured Professor of Music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music, currently serving as the Associate Dean of Operations. I have been involved in education my entire career and have been riding motorcycles since the age of 15.

A large part of my duties as Riding Academy Manager is locating, training, and employing certified MSF RiderCoaches to teach at Rawhide. Riding a motorcycle is not intuitive, and teaching motorcycle safety is challenging and multifaceted. Beyond the ability to teach effectively in the classroom, a RiderCoach must also be able to teach motor skill development to adults with a wide variety of learning styles and abilities. It has become increasingly difficult to find interested parties willing to spend the time, effort, and funds to become a RiderCoach, let alone become an effective teacher.

As a national program, all MSF RiderCoaches undergo the same training, regardless of the state in which they are trained. We are required to provide the same curriculum, regardless of the state in which we teach, and we are required to recertify every two years. This is a large commitment, and many teachers will leave the "classroom" after a short time teaching. All of this combines to make finding qualified coaches extremely difficult. With the vast majority of states sanctioning only the MSF curriculum, it would be of great benefit to allow coaches from other states to teach in Kansas.

As mentioned earlier, riding a motorcycle is not intuitive, and the need for training is paramount to the success, health, and safety of beginning riders. The ability for the State of Kansas to offer high quality training has a direct effect on the overall safety of transportation in Kansas and abroad. I recommend removing the requirement of a Kansas driver's license to teach motorcycle safety within the State of Kansas to your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James W. Snell". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. James Snell