

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION encouraging children and young adults to utilize all bicycle safety measures and equipment.

WHEREAS, bicycle safety measures, including helmets, reduce the risk of head and brain injuries in the event of a crash. All bicyclists, regardless of age, can help protect themselves by following the "rules of the road" and wearing properly fitted bicycle helmets every time they ride; and

WHEREAS, children, adolescents, and young adults suffer the most from nonfatal cycling injuries. The Centers for Disease Control report that this age group makes up 60 percent of bike-related emergency room visits; and

WHEREAS, according to Safe Kids Worldwide, the bicycle helmet is the most effective safety device to reduce head injury and death from a bicycle accident; and

WHEREAS, bike helmets can reduce the risk of brain injury or death by up to 85 percent. Yet, only about 15 percent of all children nationally wear a helmet when they ride a bike; and

WHEREAS, millions of Americans ride bicycles, but fewer than half wear bicycle helmets. A national survey conducted in 2001 to 2003 found that only 48 percent of children aged 5 to 14 years wore bicycle helmets when riding. Furthermore, older children were less likely to wear helmets than younger children; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the University of Kentucky's Department of Emergency Medicine reported more than 2,000 emergency room visits involving bicycle-related injuries among children 12 and under, and of those 250 suffered a traumatic brain injury; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, in the United States, 800 bicyclists were killed and an estimated 515,000 sustained bicycle-related injuries that required emergency department care. Roughly half of these cyclists were children and adolescents under the age of 20. Annually, 26,000 of these bicycle-related injuries to children and adolescents are traumatic brain injuries treated in emergency departments; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, cycling was responsible for over 40,000 injuries to children under the age of 14; and

WHEREAS, the Brain Injury Alliance of Kentucky, citing the National SAFE KIDS Campaign and the Illinois Highway Safety Commission, says bicycle accidents are the fourth leading cause of traumatic brain injury among children. Further, the Alliance recommends that bicyclists follow the "rules of the road," thus riding on the right side of the road, with traffic; using hand signals; respecting traffic laws and signals; stopping at intersections; looking both ways before entering a street; being extra careful around driveways; listening for traffic; checking that the road is clear before turning or changing lanes; stopping for pedestrians; using crosswalks to cross busy streets, and walking, not riding, a bicycle across a busy intersection; watching for opening car doors and parked cars pulling away from a curb; riding single file with at least one bike length between cyclists; and walking the bike if nervous about traffic or tired;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the House of Representatives concurring therein:

➔Section 1. The General Assembly recognizes the importance of bicycle safety measures and wearing a bicycle helmet for all persons including children and young adults.

➔Section 2. The General Assembly encourages children and young adults to practice bicycle safety and to wear a bicycle helmet.

➔Section 3. This Resolution shall be known as the "T.J. Floyd Bicycle Safety Act of 2016."

➔Section 4. The Clerk of the Senate shall transmit three copies of this Resolution to Senator Morgan McGarvey.