

SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION

All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Safety Legislation for Children Protecting Our Love Ones

WHEREAS, off-road all-terrain vehicle (ATVs) deaths and injuries have climbed over the past years due to their popularity as recreational vehicles; and

WHEREAS, nationally the majority of children killed on ATVs were riding adult-sized ATVs despite industry recommendations; and

WHEREAS, ATV rollovers, collisions and ejections can cause fatalities as well as serious injuries among children due to their lack of physical strength, motor coordination needed to safely handle an ATV, maturity, perceptual and cognitive abilities to react quickly and appropriately in dangerous situations; and

WHEREAS, the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (www.atvsafety.gov) estimates that 450 children are injured each year in South Carolina on ATVs; and

WHEREAS, on average, 6 children die from ATV-related injuries in South Carolina each year and from 1999-2009, 63 children died from ATV accidents, nearly 40 percent of those children were age 9 and under according to the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control Division of Biostatistics; and

WHEREAS, 48 states have already passed ATV safety laws of one form or another, with each statute tailored to meet the needs of its particular region and constituency, except in South Carolina and Hawaii.

WHEREAS, implementing an ATV safety legislation will protect our loved ones and reduce deaths and injuries among children by using best practice recommendations such as 1) having a minimum age of 9 to operate an ATV; 2) must wear a safety helmet and eye protection; 3) may not ride an ATV in violation of the Manufacturer Age Restriction Warning Label; 4) children under age 16 must complete a hands-on ATV rider safety course before operating an ATV; 5) may not carry a passenger on an ATV without a valid driver's license; and 6) children 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Carolina Public Health Association in conjunction with the South Carolina Injury Free Alliance urges South Carolina Legislature to enact and the Governor to sign legislation that will support best practice recommendations for ATV safety among children.

Approved this 25th day of May, 2011

Lillie M. Hall

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