

Motorcycle Riders Foundation
Young Activists Scholarship Winner 2020
Hailey Farmer, ABATE of Indiana

At my last ABATE of Indiana, Region 6 meeting, I was asked, “*What do motorcyclists’ rights mean to you?*”

I was surprised that without hesitation I had an answer: “*Freedom. Not only for me, but for my brothers and sisters who tread the road on two wheels.*”

I chose the word freedom because its definition fits so perfectly for what organization such as ABATE and MRF fight for day in and day out. The Oxford Dictionary defines FREEDOM as... the right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hinderance or restraint.

Sadly, the motorcycling community is forced to constantly fight for their freedoms in order to appease those who are not members of the community itself. Rights such as, the choice to wear a helmet, what apparel is deemed acceptable, the number of bikes allowed to travel together, and even the simple ability to travel in the same lane as cars. These simple rights are put in jeopardy to make those who travel the roads unaware of their own surroundings more comfortable.

My rights are important to me because I refuse to let someone who has never experienced the feeling of pure freedom, as we have, to have taken a long curve in a deep lean to come out with a smile on your face, to feel the wind whip around my body only to then uplift my spirit, to come over a tall hill not knowing what to expect on the other side to see a breathtaking scene that has been crafted by a greater power. In all my life I have never felt as free as I have during these moments.

Freedom has always been such a dubious word acting as an umbrella for all the freedoms mankind has available. For motorcyclists we ask for simple freedoms that do not put a heavy strain on everyday people, yet we must fight to protect the rights that we have. As a young female rider, I am proud to use the influence I have to fight for the freedoms for motorcyclists and do my part to introduce a new kind of freedom to my generation. I hope that my generation feels the freedom I’ve experienced and choose to stand with me in our fight for motorcyclists’ rights. For me, our rights are our freedom.