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The Helmets not Concussions Association

I represent the Helmets not Concussions Association. We support the use of helmets while partaking in snow sports, decreasing head related injuries in the state of Montana.

With an increase in popularity, snow sports are becoming more and more dangerous. With athletes pushing the limits even further and further, they are at more risk. Kids are seeing these athletes go bigger and faster and they want to go bigger and faster.

Wearing a helmet while partaking in any snow sport is a smart idea. Everyone should wear a helmet, especially small children. Helmets decrease the chances of receiving head related injuries.

Studies have shown that safety helmets for motorcycling and bicycling provide effective protection against head and brain injuries, including severe brain injuries. It is also reasonable to suggest from the bicycling and motorcycling experience that a skiing and snowboarding helmet that meets a suitable standard could provide effective protection against head and brain injuries in many types of snow sports-related incidents involving head impact. People who do not wear helmets are at a greater risk than people who do. The number of people partaking in snow sports is increasing and with that so are the number of injuries. Some statistics are:

- More than 7,000 head injuries on the slopes each year in the USA could be prevented or reduced in severity by the use of a helmet
- Approximately 53 percent of the head injuries from 1993 to 1997 were to children under 15 years of age
- The number of head related snowboarding injuries went up from 1,000 in 1993 to 5200 in 1997
- Head injuries represent about 14 percent of skiing and snowboarding injuries.

As shown by the entries on the above list, head injuries are becoming a problem and need to be addressed. As Montana citizens we need to protect ourselves and protect generations to come. With more and more interest in snow sports we need to make sure everyone is safe while either competing in an event or just going out and having fun.

I will support legislation that makes it a safer environment for snow sports, and oppose bills that make it less safe.

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