

Biker Anti-Discrimination Bill Heard In Colorado

Colorado legislation to ban discrimination against people wearing motorcyclist gear failed to pass its first committee hearing, but the bill's sponsor told the AP that he was glad he proposed the bill because it raised awareness. He said bikers are unfairly judged to be criminals.

State Rep. Joe Miklosi (D-Denver) says he didn't propose the measure to get attention but to help constituents who belong to motorcycle clubs and say they are being singled out unfairly. "I'm motivated by doing the right thing," Miklosi said. "They're being discriminated against."

Bikers say they're unfairly refused service at hotels, restaurants and stores because of how they dress, and Miklosi's bill (HB-1128) would have banned businesses from discriminating against motorcyclists based on their style of dress.

But his bid to add "unconventional attire" to the state law that bars discrimination in public accommodations and put biker attire alongside such protected classes as race, gender and religious affiliation, fell short in the GOP-controlled House State, Veterans and Military Affairs committee which is known for rejecting Democratic proposals. www.ON-A-BIKE.com

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- CMA (Christian Motorcycle Association) State Rally, Antigo, WI - June 8-9
- Vietnam Vets Summer Twister, Wittenburg, WI - July 26-28
- Wisconsin State HOG Rally, Wausau H-D, Wausau, WI - August 16-18
- St. Croix Valley Riders Chili Feed, Prescott, WI - September 7-9
- Tomahawk Fall Ride - Bubba's Big Party, Tomahawk, WI - September 13-16
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Benefit for Free Riders Press contributor Mama Kat's son.

We here at FRP have enjoyed the writings of Mama Kat through a woman's viewpoint on different subjects, and consider her to be part of the FRP family. I will do my best to be at this event and hope a good group of you will be to. Because that's what family does!!!!

Zachary was a typical 13 year old boy - participating in Scouts, football and video games. He got injured playing football and when he didn't heal as quickly as expected we chalked it up to him not keeping up with the physical therapy that was prescribed. A Dr appointment and x-rays revealed much more. Zach had a tumor on the left side of his pelvic bone the size of an adult fist. It was large enough to cause circulatory problems, discoloring in his leg and of course the pain causing him to limp and favor that leg. He also had spots on his upper right thigh bone, upper left arm, on top of his skull and in his lungs. The official diagnosis on April 14th was stage IV Ewings Sarcoma, a form of bone cancer. It presented itself the way it usually does, we were told - as a sports injury. Since then Zach has had chemotherapy treatments, radiation treatments, surgery, blood and platelet transfusions, numerous and extended stays in the hospital, both planned as well as unexpected. Through all of this, Zach has remained strong in his faith, polite, thoughtful and considerate.

His last Dr visit showed the tumors in his lungs are taking up most of the space in his right lung, along with a large amount of fluid/blood. This makes it difficult for Zach to breathe and causes him quite a bit of pain on a daily basis. He is on oxygen and is, for the most part, bedridden. Still, his positive attitude and faith never waiver. His response to the tumors etc getting worse? "We need more people to pray!"

Zach's Mom, Kat Schilling (Kathy Nelson) is a single mom with two other children - 9 yo Carson and 8 yo Mila. She hasn't had a job since Zach's diagnosis - at least not one that pays money - her job has been caring for Zach. They are inseparable. Kat has learned to do many of the things needed to take care of Zach - she does as much as they will allow her to do. As heartbreaking as it is for her, it brings Zach some comfort knowing "Mama Bear" is taking care of him.

Zach and Kat have been on this journey for 3 years now. Medical and household bills are a constant struggle.

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Fundraiser EVENT for Zachary Hartsell

Saturday, April 14, 2012
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Zach is 16 years old and was diagnosed with Stage IV Ewings Sarcoma on April 14th, 2009 at the age of 13. His Mother is Kat Schilling (Kathy Nelson), a friend and member of NHS Class of '85.

Zach's mantra is "Keep Praying"

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