

Introduced By: NHMS Executive Committee

Subject: **Bicycle Helmets and Safety**

Referred To: NHMS House of Delegates

WHEREAS, Head injury accounts for 62 percent of all bicycling deaths and 32 percent of all bicycling accidents, the utilization of bicycle helmets could prevent one death every day and one head injury every four minutes; and

WHEREAS, It is a proven fact that wearing bicycle helmets can reduce the relative risk of head injury by 85 per cent; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the New Hampshire Medical Society;

- ◆ actively support bicycle helmet use and encourage physicians to counsel their patients who ride motorized and non-motorized cycles to use approved helmets and appropriate protective clothing while cycling; and observe responsible traffic behavior
- ◆ encourage patients, families, community agencies, such as those involving law enforcement, schools and parent-teachers' organizations, to promote training programs for the responsible use of cycles;
- ◆ encourage the distribution and utilization of safe, effective and reasonably priced bicycle helmets at point of bicycle purchase and rental;
- ◆ develop model state/local legislation for cyclists' mandatory use of helmets while cycling;