

PRESS RELEASE



Contact:
David "Lockdown" Rich
Public Relations Trustee,
ABATE of Florida, Inc.
386.490.4821 FAX: 396.490.4482
statepr@abateflorida.com
www.ABATEFlorida.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Former Senator & Motorcyclists Rights Advocate Severely Injured When His Bike is Cut Off

Tallahassee, FL, March 16, 2011 - Former Wisconsin State Senator David Zien, a strong motorcyclist rights advocate, was airlifted after being seriously injured this past Sunday morning while riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle on I-10 in Jackson County, FL. Ryan G. Matheny of Ohio was driving his SUV with a suspended driver's license when he attempted to change lanes, lost control, and flipped the SUV directly in front of Zien.

The collision resulted in Zien having his left leg amputated above the knee, and two plates being implanted in his hip.

James "Doc" Reichenbach II, President of ABATE of Florida, Inc. and friend of Zien, has been with him over the last few days. "Former Senator Zien is resting in the Intensive Care Unit and needs as much rest as he can get" said Doc Reichenbach. "He's in good spirits". The Intensive Care Unit is rapidly filling up with flowers from well-wishers, and Former Senator Zien is very grateful, but asks that everyone please refrain from sending more as there is limited room in the Unit.

Matheny, the driver of the SUV, only had minor injuries and was cited by the Florida Highway Patrol for Improper Lane Change and Driving With a Suspended Driver's License.

According to Florida Statute 316.085(2), "Improper Change of Lane" is only a \$60 fine. The driving while his license was suspended could result in probation, or possibly even be dropped by the State. Those are extremely small penalties when considering that Zien was in no way at fault when Matheny, driving illegally and out-of-control, crashed directly in-front of him, and cost Zien his leg and numerous surgeries to come.

This case is the EXACT reason why ABATE of Florida, Inc. is pushing our Florida House Bill HB403 and Florida Senate Bill SB608. If our Bills become law, drivers causing crashes like the one that cost Zien his leg, or worse, other motorcyclists' their lives, would be looking at mandatory jail time. No longer would drivers like this get away with almost no repercussions.

Please keep David Zien in your thoughts and prayers. We wish him well in his upcoming recovery, and we will continue to keep his condition in our minds as we fight for stiffer penalties for drivers severely injuring and killing motorcyclists.

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