



NEWS RELEASE

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Five-Year Commemoration of Florida's First Motorcycle Specialty Tag – Raising Nearly \$1 Million for Citizens with Disabilities

TALLAHASSEE- Monday, April 14, 2008, Senator Stephen Wise (District 5) and Representative Larry Cretul (District 22) were joined by leaders of Florida's disability community at the Florida Capital to celebrate the five year commemoration of the House Bill 287, which established Florida's first and only Motorcycle Specialty Tag.

During the American Bikers Aiming Toward Education (ABATE) days at the Capitol, Sen. Wise and Rep. Cretul, sponsors of the Bikers Care Tag legislation, announced the bill's success during a news conference, scheduled at 11:00 a.m. at the Florida Capital Rotunda, first floor.

Created in 2003, the Biker's Care tag is Florida's only specialty license plate for motorcycles. Since motorcycle accidents can often lead to permanent disabilities - the Bikers Care tag was created to fund programs that improve the quality of life for Floridians with disabilities. In this time of budget adjustments, the tag is an example of how great collaboration can lead to positive financial outcomes.

"It is great to see my fellow Florida motorcyclists coming together to support the Bikers Care tag," Representative Cretul stated. "The tag gives bikers a chance to show their patriotic colors while helping raise valuable funds for our citizens with disabilities."

For the past five years, Florida's motorcyclists have purchased nearly 40,000 tags. Proceeds from tag sales have raised almost \$1 million to benefit five statewide organizations, serving individuals with disabilities. These organizations include The Able Trust, the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program, the Florida Association of Center for Independent Living (FACIL), Prevent Blindness Florida and the Blind Services Foundation of Florida.

The press conference also announced the winners of the 2008 Biker's Care Tag College Students Poster Contest, hosted by FACIL in honor of the five year celebration. The 2008 Biker's Care Tag College Student Poster Contest offered one college student the chance to have their personally designed poster included in the campaign to raise awareness about the tag. The winner of the contest, Giselle Herrera of Santa Fe Community College, received a cash prize of \$500. Second and third place winners also received cash prizes and recognition during the news conference.

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The Able Trust, also known as the Florida Governor's Alliance for the Employment of Citizens with Disabilities, serves as the fiscal agent for the Bikers Care tag, distributing proceeds from tag sales to the benefiting organizations.

For more information about the Bikers Care tag legislation please contact Alana Hill at (888) 838-2253 or at (850) 559-6218. To learn more about the 2008 Bikers Care Tag College Student Poster Contest, please contact Martina Schmid at (850) 575-6004.

ABOUT THE ABLE TRUST: The Able Trust, also known as the Florida Governor's Alliance for the Employment of Citizens with Disabilities, is a 501(c)(3) public-private partnership foundation established by the Florida Legislature in 1990. Its mission is to be the leader in providing Floridians with disabilities fair employment opportunities through fundraising, grant programs, public awareness and education. Since its establishment, The Able Trust has awarded over \$21 million to individuals with disabilities and nonprofit agencies throughout Florida for employment-related purposes, enabling over 2,000 Florida citizens with disabilities to enter the workforce each year. The Able Trust youth programs provide career development and transition to almost 2,500 students with disabilities annually, helping to reduce the dropout rate and prepare young adults for life beyond high school. For more information about The Able Trust, visit www.abletrust.org.

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