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Mike King, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Governor Promotes 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Flint Hills Freedom Ride**

*Motorcycle safety issues highlighted at event.*

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback announced plans for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Flint Hills Freedom Ride today in Topeka.

The ride which will take place Saturday, June 1 is a 100-mile ride that will begin in Topeka, travel along the Native Stone Scenic Byway and Flint Hills National Scenic Byway, and end in Council Grove.

Proceeds from the event will support five non-profit causes: Brothers in Blue Re-entry, Wounded Warrior Fund (now known as Soldier & Family Assistance Center), Army Community Service (ACS), Native Stone Scenic Byway, and the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway.

The Topeka Police Department Motorcycle Unit also appeared at the kickoff and performed a riding demonstration.

In addition to announcing the ride Gov. Brownback signed a proclamation designating May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness month.

During the Freedom Ride kickoff Gov. Brownback noted that motorcycle safety is important to all riders.

"I hope all of you enjoy your riding season, and please do your part to be safe on our roads," said Gov. Brownback.

Kansas Transportation Secretary Mike King reinforced the safety message by sharing a few startling statistics.

“A statistic that surprises me is that half of the motorcyclists killed last year weren’t properly licensed,” said Sec. King. “That’s huge. By law every motorcycle operator must have an M endorsement on their driver’s license.”

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For information on the Governor’s Flint Hills Freedom Ride: <https://fhfreedomride.ksoutdoors.com/>

This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact the Bureau of Transportation Information, 700 SW Harrison St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711.

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