

law enforcement and safety education to attain those high usage rates. The State of Iowa has a safety belt law and 64 percent of their residents use their safety belts on a regular basis. The State of Nebraska does not have a safety belt law; 32 percent of our people wear safety belts. The only difference between Iowa and Nebraska is they have a safety belt law and we don't. Now for the one factor that is different from 1985 than it was today is that the Federal Highway Construction Fund Act has been signed by President Bush, and for those nine states, including Nebraska, that do not have a safety belt law by 1993, they will begin diverting up to 3 percent of our highway construction fund money and putting it into safety belt education programs. That will result in about \$3 million a year going into safety belt education. That is going to create a whole new department for the State of Nebraska. We can go out and hire a bunch of new employees to encourage people to wear safety belts, and the end result is that you won't get your percentage rate up any higher than it probably is right now, if at all. Three to four million dollars a year going out of highway construction fund money, going into education, does not make a lot of sense to me, and I don't think it makes a lot of sense to the taxpayers of Nebraska. I think the other important thing to know is that attitudes have changed about safety across the country and in Nebraska. And if you look at recent polls that have been taken, from Scottsbluff, for instance, the Scottsbluff Star-Herald just recently did a poll of the people out there and asked them what they thought about mandatory safety belt laws, 68 percent were in favor. The State Chamber of Commerce went across the state last summer, surveyed something like 1,500 people,...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR HORGAN: ...asked how many supported a safety belt law, 71 percent. The Cornhusker Triple A surveyed their membership, 74 percent support a safety belt law. Times have changed. Our laws have changed. We have a helmet law now. We have a child restraint law. It is time for the law to change in Nebraska. This is a good bill and I encourage your support and endorsement of it. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Horgan. We do have an amendment to the bill

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Peterson would move to amend the