

drivers were required to wear them at the time, and most trucking companies require them to be worn now. But if you look at the fact as to what Senator Haberman said that we would lose some federal funds and go into an education bill, yes, it is not all that bad. But when you realize that today we voted to basically not fund the Boxing Commission, that was \$25,000 or somewhere in that neighborhood, but in setting up a program to use this money that the federal government said we'd have to go into education would be nothing more than setting up another bureaucracy to run that education, which would take the biggest share of the money to run that organization that we would lose on our highways. And I know Senator Haberman is more conservative than that, that he would want to set up another bureaucracy. A few years ago before I come into the Legislature, I did do some accident investigation, worked for a company for a year that had taxicabs and everything, and we did a lot of investigating there. I probably would've argued the fact that we lose about as many lives as we save with the use of seat belts, but over the last 12, 14 years, the quality of our vehicles have went down. It doesn't take much of a crash anymore to completely total a vehicle. When that happens, invariably you will have somebody that will be ejected from the vehicle, and either run over by their own vehicle or hit by another vehicle. I think of an accident that we had a week ago here on the interstate up by Highway 50 where the car went across the median and struck another car and killed a man. The lady in the driver's seat that went across the median had an air bag. It saved her life, but, thank god, the passenger that was with her was thrown out of the car because of not wearing a seat belt, and did not lose her life but is badly injured. So in one respect, you know, they talk about seat belts being good, but then you look at the fact...or air bags being good, but they only work basically on a front end collision. You have a side collision, somebody runs into you from the side, you can be thrown out the other door, and the air bags do not help you, and seat belts do save lives. I am a 30-year member of a volunteer fire department and I have seen a lot of that over the years. My son is now a member of the volunteer fire department. He sees it. On the number of calls that Gretna handles, on the interstate system, it seems like that is the biggest share of the accidents is on the interstate system. Unless it is right inside the City of Omaha, it's in Gretna's jurisdiction. So the fire departments, the volunteers will tell you how much the seat belts do save lives when they go out to investigate those accidents. Yes, they have to cut the seat belts sometimes to