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FLOOR DEBATE

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not going to ask for calls of the house, because I don't need to do that. I'm going to take my votes, take my lumps, reconsider, offer additional amendments till all the time is gone this morning, unless you're going to give Senator Aguilar a cloture vote. I've dug my heels in on this bill. I will not allow this Legislature, I repeat, I will not allow this Legislature to create second-class children. I know what it means to have children who are put in a second-class category for the benefit or the prejudices of adults. I don't care whether they're farmers. I don't care whether they're Two Men and a Truck. I don't care if they're I-Go Van and Storage. I don't care if they're recycling groups or any others. I am not going to place the interests of those moneymakers above the safety of these children. If you accept the premise of this bill, that it is unsafe to have these children unrestrained in these parts of these vehicles or on some of these vehicles in some cases, that is a defensible, moral, principled position. It takes care of and meets a societal need and goal, which is to protect our children. But when you then turn right around, after having shown that this conduct is inherently unsafe, that children can be harmed and even killed, you then turn right around and become the opportunistic politician and will say a bill's passage is more important to me than the welfare and safety of these children. You all may want to sacrifice the health of children who are working. I do not and I shall not. Sometimes having these children work in and of itself may be placing a burden on them that they should not have to assume. We've dealt, in the Business and Labor Committee, with the age at which children can be put to work by farmers; the dangerous conditions under which they can be made to work by farmers, sloshing around in water, ankle deep, that may be polluted and disease-ridden to placate farmers. You shall not do this today, or the only way you shall do it, to get it past this stage, is with a cloture vote. And I can just see the field day I will have showing that the Legislature was so eager to affirmatively put a license to endanger children into the law that they gave a cloture vote. That's what this bill does. It gives a license to endanger children. Senator Schimek, if you look at the bill or Senator Beutler's amendment, and you can call it up on the gadget, there's nothing that says the cargo has to be secured. They could be back there among a bunch of boxes. They could be