

of which was prefilled and the senators shared that information with me. The National Safety Council is concerned about the lives unnecessarily stamped out last year or the 57,000 serious injuries to the children of our country and unfortunately the children of the State of Nebraska. An accident as you well know which is "only that fender bender" can cause the death or the serious injury to the small child who is not properly restrained. A number of you have new programs in your communities across the State of Nebraska, loaner systems at a very modest cost. Hospitals who desire to have those babies safely born in their hospital arrive home safely so that the hospital is providing services. The cost is minimum. The cost of even one visit to an emergency room is more than the total cost of a brand new very expensive model child's seat restraint. A child's seat restraint is a super kind of gift from a grandparent or a good friend, that favorite aunt who wishes to do something special for the newborn. The opportunity is here. If you will think back a few years with me and a number of you have been in the Legislature for a number of years, you will remember we had much discussion when we were discussing the possibility of putting on our statutes the requirement for parents to see that their child was immunized against communicable diseases. Oh, that should be a decision by the parents. In theory it should but parents sometimes need that gentle reminder from the state that the overall good of the child is paramount and that the state has a stake in what happens to the children in this state. That accident which only causes injury may cause mental retardation for the remaining years of the life of that small child. It may only cause the onset of epilepsy. It could be even more serious. Our state has the opportunity on January 13th to move ahead with the other states in the United States who have put this good legislation on the books. Oh, it is not all we've wished for. We'd like it to include children older than three but it is a start. It is a step in the right direction. I urge your support for LB 69. As you know, this has had sufficient persons supporting it. Just getting them here at the same time has been the problem. I urge your advancement of LB 69 to Enrollment and Review initial.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, I have strongly supported Senator Marsh on this bill in the past and I continue to support LB 69. Adults have a choice. If we want to play Russian roulette and not use seat belts, that is our decision. Does an infant or a small child have a choice? Of course not. That child is solely dependent on the person that is driving the car. Please