

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I rise to oppose the Peterson amendment. I have to confess to you that I wasn't quite certain what I was going to do when I got up here until I started hearing the conversation. I would just like to say that I signed onto this bill early because I think that it is probably the most important bill, as Senator Horgan said, that we will have the opportunity to vote on this year with the exception maybe of the tax bill, and the cigarette vending machine bill, and a few others, but this is a bill about saving lives. And I don't know if you have had the opportunity to look at the material that Senator Horgan passed out yet, but I tell you what, having the list of Lancaster County fatalities for the last five years in front of me really has an impact, and I can't think of a senator in this room that won't pause to think about the list of victims in their county or in their district. We have the facts before us. We know that seat belts save lives. We know that we have seat belt requirements in airplanes. We know that we have rules of the road. To me, there doesn't seem to be any valid arguments against mandating seat belts. The only valid argument perhaps is that the people have spoken and the people have said they don't want seat belts. Well, I have to reiterate what Senator Horgan said, that was several years ago. Things change. You take a poll today and tomorrow it might be different. I think that we have to consider some of the realities, some of the new facts, and some of the highway fund issues that we have before us now. I would plead with you to vote to advance this bill. And, Senator Peterson, you know, I was going to ask you the same question that Senator Horgan asked you because I thought I had read somewhere that maybe you were opposed to the seat belt law. Actually, I could support your amendment if, one, I didn't think maybe that you were trying to, not harass the bill, but not make it any better, and, secondly, if Senator Horgan hadn't gotten up and told me that the deaths are really those that occur in automobiles. Otherwise, I was going to get up and maybe support your amendment, and maybe you can talk me back into it. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Anyone else wishing to speak to this amendment by Senator Peterson? Seeing no one, Senator Peterson, do you wish to close?

SENATOR PETERSON: Mr. President, and members, yes, I would like to close. I'd like to ask Senator Horgan a couple of questions, too.