

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Horgan, do you respond, please?

SENATOR HORGAN: You bet.

SENATOR PETERSON: Senator Horgan, are you willing to gamble on this, not passing this amendment?

SENATOR HORGAN: Am I willing to gamble on not passing it?

SENATOR PETERSON: Yes. What if tomorrow, or a month from now, or a year from now we have a serious bus...semi hits it or it goes off in a snowstorm over a big embankment and kills 12, 20 children and this isn't in there, wouldn't you feel a little guilty then?

SENATOR HORGAN: Senator Peterson, I think you're, you know, the intent of the bill or of the amendment is probably good, and probably is something that we may need to look at as an interim study, and see what type of fiscal impact it will have on school districts and manufacturers of buses, and see what cost it would be asking them to restructure the insides of buses so that they could be fitted with seat belts, and perhaps next year we ought to come back with a bill that would expand this to include seat belts in school buses. But right now the bill is only dealing with automobiles and motor vehicles as they come equipped, and it is not to be an onerous bill, to require new things to occur, or to have Nebraska try and drive the industry. And so, therefore, I simply...I don't think it is a problem, and the statistics I think bear that out.

SENATOR PETERSON: One other question, are you...in this bill, will that require the school bus driver to wear a seat belt?

SENATOR HORGAN: Yes, it would, but I believe they already are required as commercial drivers.

SENATOR PETERSON: They are already required. Then why should we look at the safety of just the school bus driver and not the children involved?

SENATOR HORGAN: Well, because it is very important that the guy that is driving the bus stay in that seat, and the fact that he has a safety belt on is going to help ensure that he stays in that seat, and at the wheel. And to require the children to be safety belted when the buses aren't manufactured that way just