

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Abboud. Senator Schimek, on the bill. Senator Withem. Senator Ashford, on the bill. Senator Rasmussen, on the bill.

**SENATOR RASMUSSEN:** Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise in strong support of this legislation. Is it perfect? I don't think so. Is it going to eliminate all injuries if people wear seat belts? Probably not. Is it totally consistent with all parts of the bill? May not be. So why do I still support it? Because I think there is substantial evidence out there that we can dramatically reduce the number of injuries as well as death by using these safety devices in cars. I think that it is in the best interest of the state in terms of the cost due to health care costs which are not just covered by the person who is injured, but by all of us in terms of the disability payments, in terms of unemployment, in terms of time away from work, all those factors cost us as a community and I think for that reason it is in the best interest of the state to pass this legislation. I think there is enough information out there for me to support it logically and intellectually, but I will also share with you that I have a good deal of emotion behind this bill in terms of wanting it passed because I have seen the children who did not have seat belts on and as I have tried to help those who used to be perfect, who used to be able to run and talk and create and think and who no longer can do that, I look and I say this need not have been. It could have been prevented and I urge you to join in this effort to prevent any more of that from happening. Thank you.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. Senator Abboud.

**SENATOR ABOUD:** Mr. President, colleagues, would Senator Horgan yield to a question?

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Senator Horgan, would you respond, please.

**SENATOR HORGAN:** Yes, I would.

**SENATOR ABOUD:** Senator Horgan, in Section 6 of the bill it refers to evidence that a person was not wearing an occupant protection system at the time he or she was injured shall not be admissible in regard to the issue of liability of approximate cause, but is admissible concerning mitigation of damages. Is this similar to the bill that we passed a few years ago using