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right now because I would have to break it off in the middle.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Connealy has the following guests visiting the Legislature. They are 51 members of the Financial Woman's International Group with Julia Leonard (phonetic), the District President. They are in the north balcony. Would you please stand and be recognized by the Legislature. Thank you for being here. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we've had a good debate so far and I appreciate the issues that are being raised by both the proponents and the opponents, and these issues should be discussed without...without a doubt they should be discussed. However, we have a problem in this state, whether we want to recognize it or admit it or not, and the bottom line is that after a 50 year low in 1995 of 248 deaths on our highways, we had 315 in 1998. We are in a steady upward spiral of the number of fatalities and deaths on the highways, not to mention the head injuries, and the neck injuries, the increase in serious injuries besides fatalities. We have a problem, folks. Now how do you want to address the problem? That is the question. I don't...I don't discount Senator Schmitt's or Senator Chambers' concerns, but I wish they would offer solutions for the problem. I'm not content, as a legislator, to sit here and do nothing. The next fatality could be one of my kids, could be one of your people, friends or acquaintances or children, and it could happen, even if they are wearing a seat belt. But in our studies through the summer and fall, from the State Highway Administration, the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles, the Federal Highway Administration, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, others, I can go on down the list, Safety and Health Council, every one of them says, folks, if you want to stop the increasing spiral in fatalities, if you want to reverse that trend, and get back down to a more reasonable level comparable with most other states, the seat belt is the one thing that will do that. That is the one thing that will do that. Now Senator Schmitt and Senator Chambers raise a concern, but this bill does not take probable cause out the window. It does not remove probable cause. You cannot just stop someone willy-nilly because you want to. You have to have probable cause. That probable cause, at the present time, could be many things, running a red light, going across the center line,