

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

February 24, 1999 LB 356

it again, that when the driver is unbuckled, when the driver is unbuckled, restraint use for children is only 24 percent. The same thought process, the same...the same thought that goes into that parent's head of not having to be buckled up they carry right on through with their children. And I'd be very happy to share with Senator Schmitt statistics of what happens to children, the injuries, the deaths related to these children, I have piles of it, when they aren't properly restrained. And I think it's important that we remember this. Senator Chambers, we talked about statistics, and I shared with you a document that talks about the methods used to gather the information, the statistics that I have been using relative to this debate, and I'd like to share with you, I am going to read it, because I think it is so important: The true population base and exposure base death rates for Hispanics may be even higher than reported in the article that was passed out to you because Hispanic ethnicity is underreported on death certificates. Moreover, estimated racial ethnic differences in risk probably would be even greater if adjusted for urban and rural residence, since accident death rates are highest in rural areas, and rural residence is more common among whites. And I think it's very important, all of you have this statistical information,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BYARS: ...the references, and I think it's important you understand that these aren't just figures that are being thrown out there for the basis of making points, but they're very well substantiated. But I'd really like, Senator Chambers, I'd like to bring you back to the point of the bill. The point of the bill is to...is to ask law-abiding Nebraska citizens to buckle up, to deter people from not using their seat belts, and increase the likelihood that we'll survive automobile crashes. Let's come back to that point, let's talk about the basis of the bill, and that is to save lives, and not written to provide another technique for harassment by law enforcement officers.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Senator Jones, you're recognized.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, I just wanted to stand in support of this bill. I'd like to give you