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convincing you of how important this piece of legislation is to each and every one of the lives in your district. You always second guess yourself as you argue these issues, as you do feel as passionately about them as I do. I want to thank Senator Chambers. I think probably it's appropriate that we do get to a vote on the bill and we're going to see, up or down, whether you truly, the members of this body, are truly interested in increasing ways to save lives on the highway of our state. I think all of you have had passed out to you the fatalities that have occurred within your own legislative districts over a period of 1993 through 1997. I think it's important that you understand, as you would vote against this piece of legislation, that instead of preventing deaths, and it could be your neighbor, it could be a family member, could be a member of your church, it could be somebody that's very close to you, as you make this decision think clearly, passionately about your actions and about what you're about...about to do. And as...as...if you vote against this legislation, and I hope and pray that you won't, I hope you'll vote for it to advance it to Select File, that you'll understand what you're doing; that you're leaving the status quo in place; that instead of making necessary health and safety changes in this state you're choosing to accept our backwards slide, our decline, if you will, to increase fatalities because we aren't offering enough deterrent for people to buckle up. I want to talk for a moment about statistics again, so please, please listen. Again, this...these numbers are people. These numbers have faces. These numbers are 16-, 17-, 18-year-old kids who we're setting an example for. They're your children. They're your neighbor's children. They're your family's children. Using seat belts for front seat passenger car occupants reduces the risk of fatal injury by 45 percent, 45 percent. And it reduces the risk of moderate to critical injury by 50 percent. And if you go to light truck occupants, you individuals who are farmers and you individuals who have come to me with that argument, the statistics are even higher. For light truck occupants, it reduces the risk of fatal injury by 60 percent, and the risk of moderate to critical injury by 65 percent. From January to July of 1998, 137 people died on Nebraska roads,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.