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SENATOR BYARS: ...people with faces, not statistics. Of these 137 people, only 35 were wearing seat belts. Do we need this deterrent? I think it's absolutely obvious. I hope and I pray that you'll support me in advancing LB 356.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Chair recognizes Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Byars. I think you have effectively laid out the arguments and done an excellent job, and if...if folks are listening they have a good deal of the facts before them upon which to base their decision. Last year, I was just talking to Senator Bohlke, we did do a graduated driver's license with the idea that we'd try to improve safety, help drivers become safe drivers for their own sakes and those that ride with them and those that are on the highways. So we took a step in that direction with that driver's license move and it wasn't an easy one, but I think we all did it because we thought there was a problem with accidents and young people and maybe this would be a step eventually in the right direction. I don't know what else we can lay out for ourselves to look at here. In 1996, our fatality rate was higher than the national average and it's...there's more difference now than there was then in terms of us being higher than the national average per million vehicle miles travelled. You go across the river to Iowa, you see that sign "Buckle Up, It's the Law", well, it is the law there and I don't hear...I don't hear a lot of problems coming from those states that do have the primary enforcement. There's always a price to pay when you put a law in. Senator Lynch, I think about you and all of the work you've tried to do with head injuries and the helmet law and I ask myself what is the difference, what is the difference here? Within a tenth of a second after you have an impact in a car, the car comes to a dead stop. If you don't have a seat belt on, you continue moving forward at the rate that the car is traveling. What happens? Your head smashes into the windshield or the dashboard. If you don't die, a lot of times you have a serious head injury. It's one of the major causes of injury and death in crashes. Wearing a seat belt will keep you out of the windshield, will keep you...your head from hitting the dashboard. I, frankly, don't know why...I know Senator Coordsen is probably enthused about the prospect of repealing the helmet law. I think the chances are very good,