

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

February 24, 1999 LB 356

about some teenagers out in Kearney who rolled their car, and it says they obviously weren't wearing their seat belts, but also alcohol was involved. And I cannot get you people to listen to me about alcohol. So I don't know how I'm going to vote yet. I might vote yes. I might vote no. I might not vote. But please stop laying guilt on me this morning about not taking care of people. You know I do take care of people. I work very hard at that. So knock that off. And if you want to talk now, Denny, fine. If I have a half a minute or a minute, you can have it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Chair recognizes Senator Byars for a minute and a half.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Senator Crosby. The reason I was trying to get your attention was that I think, for whatever reason, you're getting the wrong opinion on the penalty. There is penalty. There is a fine. There is a point assessment within the language of this bill. So I didn't want you to have the feeling that there was no penalty involved.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I think Senator Byars and Senator Bromm have both made some very good points explaining the bill and why we should all wear seat belts, and everyone should wear seat belts. It...I think it does save lives. I think it's a very good thing to have. My concern is that it's a mandate. How many times do we have to mandate things in this body that people should do in this state? And I think we've come to the point where enough is enough. We can't continually pass laws to tell people this will help you. They have to take some responsibility themselves. I don't always wear a seat belt, but I should because I think it does help. I think it's...probably it would save lives and I think it does save lives. But I think the body and the message this morning is that we're not going to have any more mandates that you will do this or you're going to get fined. The people have to take responsibility themselves. I think is one area that I think the people have...they spoke years ago and they had the recall and they took it off, we put it back on, and I think it's just another issue out there that this body...we deal with many