

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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Nebraska Rules of the Road, that we have right now. I once...I want to say right again, again, one more time, that I absolutely understand where Senator Chambers is coming from relative to the protection of the people that he represents and I admire and congratulate him for doing that. But I still feel that the overriding issue of saving lives, whether they be black, Hispanic, Latino, white, is the reason why we should pass this legislation. And I think that that is the whole point and one that I wish to continue to drive home to you and not to have you get lost in discrimination issues, in issues that are absolutely pertinent but are not in any way my purpose for introducing this legislation. This...any law enforcement officer that wants to stop any individual within this state can find an excuse, a reason, to do so right now from a litany of reasons. The adding of the primary use of seat belts to that is not going to make a whit of difference. If you have an unprincipled, biased, prejudiced police officer who wants to make a stop, they're going to find a way to make a stop. Is it right? Absolutely not. I think you see, Senator Chambers, many of the same situations with young white teenagers in many communities that feel that they are discriminated against by law enforcement officials because of the fact that they're 16, 17, 18 years old. Does it mean that I don't want these individuals to be protected by wearing their seat belts? No. Does it feel that I don't want them to be harassed if they haven't done anything to be harassed or stopped? Yes. I think this crosses across ethnicity, racial lines. It comes down to a matter, purely and simply, of saving lives, of encouraging seat belt use for people to help reduce injury and death because they don't wear these seat belts. Failure to follow a traffic control device; driving left of center; driving on the shoulder of a highway; failure to signal a turn; overloading the front seat or obstructing the driver, obscuring the driver's view. How obscure is that one? I mean (laugh) you could work with that a lot, couldn't you, if you wanted to harass somebody. Driving any speed unsafe for the conditions of the road regardless of the speed limit; improperly adjusted headlights...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BYARS: ...or glare from headlights; lack of brake lights or turn signal lights; white lights to the rear; red