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question will soften, but right now it hasn't. The part where I will not soften is in the state trying to dictate to grown people that they must be safe.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. Just a couple other points for the record, not only will we be saving, as I mentioned before, hopefully 50 to 60 percent of the lives of children who have been...who may be killed because they aren't wearing seat belts, but it also impacts injury. And I just wanted to put some Nebraska facts into the record. Of the children injured in vehicle crashes in Nebraska from 1994 to 1998, ages zero to fifteen, 48 percent were not using a safety restraint. Obviously, it's a better percentage and that's why they weren't injured as much, but we still need to get that down. And as you know from the other list, significant numbers were killed who weren't wearing seat belts in traffic accidents. I did want to read into the record two paragraphs from letters that students at Tara Heights School in Papillion wrote on this. They were working on their persuasive writing and a couple of them came down to the hearing and I thought they made very good points that haven't been brought up this morning, but I'd like to just read a little bit from each of their letters. One, the first one is from Kristin Garrison. She says, some people say, why should I have to wear a seat belt, I'm only hurting myself. Well, that's not true. If you are in an accident and not wearing a seat belt, it costs about \$5,000 more for medical expenses than if you were wearing a seat belt. This costs everybody more money because it raises insurance rates. My very good friend was in an automobile accident. When she first got in the car, she buckled up incorrectly with her arm in front of the seat belt. For some reason, right before the collision, she put the seat belt on correctly. The police told her that because she had her seat belt on and on correctly, her life was saved and she was not injured. From T.J. Nicholson, if you vote this bill into law, you will save many lives. If every state had a law about seat belts, we would save about 1,900 lives, prevent 49,000 injuries and save Americans \$3 billion in health care costs. So I ask you to move...to vote for this amendment. I'm also going...I don't want to get into it before we get to the next amendment,