

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

April 8, 2003

LB 303

biker, that helmets are not a significant deterrent. She has taken the training. She did everything right. They told her in training, never, ever go out the driveway without a helmet. She and her friends do that. She says it's no hindrance. The hair blows...the air blows through her hair, and her heart races with her beautiful machine. She's all for education, and appreciate that part of it. But education doesn't get at the problem of the bill. We hear about fatality statistics. Well, that's beside the point. I've been on Appropriations long enough that I don't feel pain anymore. (Laugh) Thank you for recognizing a little humor there. It's...people will do foolish things, and people will die doing foolish things. The problem that I see is strictly from our money factor. It's the public cost. It's already been spoken to. It's great. The fatalities are there. I remember a comment in Missouri from a newspaper that said the Legislature should not spend more time in trying to figure out how to kill more of our citizens. Our problem is dollars. We're in a budget crisis. And I cannot believe that at this point we would consider anything that would increase that budget price. And it surely will. Not a great amount. I don't see...this is not the end of the world type of thing. I don't have any great passion about this. This is not something I'm going to speak to very much. But one brain injury is \$100,000 a year for the rest of their life. And it's our bill. They talk about insurance. Insurance is not going to cover it, except, you know, a very expensive long-range policy, which we're not going to agree to, I'm sure. Insurance gives up. So if we only have a half a dozen of these over the years, it's still \$100,000 a year. Most of them tend to be young. If we pay 50 years of that, it counts up. We have a certain amount of benefit from more bikers going through our state, we're told, and so on. (Laugh) Well, one brain injury, which is what helmets are to prevent, one brain injury wipes out all of the economic benefits. From there on, we go in the hole. I am not willing to add this...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR KRUSE: ...cost to our future tax load. And I think in this particular year, we ought not to be considering it as a body. Thank you.