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LB 303

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. I've had my light on for quite some time and, actually, I really wanted to speak to the previous amendment of Senator Brown's because I've always supported that. And I've always said that the only way that I would ever think about supporting a "helmetless" society in this state was if someone had the insurance coverage for long-term care. You know, the price on that was about 200 bucks a month. The only thing about it, if you didn't, you know, if you didn't...if you wore the helmet, you wouldn't have to have it. And I can go back...I used to ride a motorcycle, when I was young and foolish. Of course, you know, I'm...I don't have my youth anymore, but some people will still say I'm foolish. But that's neither here nor there. Everyone has those desires to ride a motorcycle at one time or other. I had a little Harley 45. It was a war...army surplus motorcycle; wasn't worth a darn. It was a piece of junk. It was when I bought it, and when I sold it, it was still a piece of junk. But I can remember one evening going on a street in Fremont and neglected to the fact that that street was a dead-end street. It dead-ended at Nye Avenue and I was motoring along on that motorcycle, and all of a sudden, boom, there was no street left there and I hit the curb and I flew up on the seminary lawn about 50 feet or so. Thank goodness, it was a nice grassy area or I would have probably been skinned from one end to the other. And who knows, could have hit that curb with my head, too, but I was fortunate. I had it that summer and my poor parents never had a good night sleep all the while I owned that darn thing. But it was a good lesson for me and, fortunately for me, I never did get hurt. It's true you can ride in other states that border us without a helmet. Of course, a lot of there, as Senator Schimek pointed out earlier, they are most all...the map looks just about like the gambling map looked. But, of course, you know, we have arguments that that doesn't make any difference either, but on the other hand, rehabilitating a person who is addicted to gambling is far less than it costs to rehabilitate someone who has had a brain injury, or if they can even rehabilitate them. Some people are lucky. You heard about Senator Jensen's son. He was fortunate. He was rehabilitated, but a lot of people aren't. We might not be totally protective with the helmet, but it certainly is a lot better than nothing. And with the vote that was just taken on