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LB 303

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I thought I was the last one to speak when you said that earlier. I had my light on actually to speak to the previous amendment, and I just left it on. There is just something about Senator Pedersen's amendment that just is bothersome to me. And what, again, he is saying that if you want to ride a motorcycle without a helmet, you may do so. However, you must consent, which is kind of a contradiction, consent to a donation of your...his or her body organs and tissues. I cannot imagine a decision that would be more personal and private and important than a donation of organs or tissues. And for us to say that in order for you to ride a motorcycle without a helmet, you have to waive that personal decision to give those up, notwithstanding any of the religious issues that might be associated with it. Senator Smith mentioned a religion or some religious groups that just don't believe in organ donation, and what we would be doing is saying that they, since they are not willing or can't, because of their religious beliefs they can't donate organs, that they have to wear helmets. I'm just am really disturbed by this. I cannot imagine, again, a more private, personal decision that we, the state, are intervening in and I don't intend to support Senator Pedersen's amendment. However, I do support the underlying bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. The issue before us is AM0789, offered by Senator Pedersen to the committee amendments to LB 303. Further discussion, Senator Cunningham. Senator Cunningham waives off. Senator Aguilar.

SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise in opposition to the amendment and in support of the bill. First of all, the amendment, as well-meaning as I think it is, I think it misses the point. If you look at the numbers, you know, ten times as many people are injured or killed in car accidents, and we don't mandate that they give up their organs. I think as far as my personal opinion as far as motorcycles are concerned, yeah, they are dangerous. But then so is bungee jumping, skydiving, hang gliding. There's a lot of things out there, but still people choose to participate in these venues. We can list all of the terrible accidents under the sun, but that doesn't