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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 303

about two years older than me, we were sitting around the table and the reason we were sitting around the table is because we were all trying to figure out what my uncle could have done differently to avoid the accident that he was in, because he was in an accident. He was driving his motorcycle on a highway. It was the fall of that year. Farm truck pulled out, ran right into the back of the farm truck, killed him. Wasn't wearing a helmet. Helmet wouldn't have saved his life either. So when I first got elected, Senator Smith brought to my attention that this proposal was out there and I immediately said, well, you know, this is an interesting issue. I'm going to have to get some perspective from my family members on whether they thought my uncle would have worn a seat belt or worn a helmet or not. My mom said, a helmet wouldn't have saved his life, Phil. And I agreed with her. And I think regardless of whether the law is on the books or not, I think the goal of at least part of this bill is that there's going to be some education required, and I think that's important. So from that standpoint, I think that it's interesting, the debate. We can have both sides of this, people that have seen the effects of the accidents and the damage that is done by individuals who have driven motorcycles, and some are on either side of this bill. So I guess, as I look at that, I think the idea should come down to the facts. We hear a lot of rhetoric, we hear a lot of reasons why this is a bad idea. We hear ideas, like Senator Pedersen's, that we should require these people to be organ donors. Well, I guess if we're going to do that then we should require motor vehicle drivers to do that as well. If we're going to require individuals who ride motorcycles, regardless of whether they have a helmet or not, even if they do have a helmet, potentially to have long-term insurance, we sure as heck have people driving cars have that. I mean we're talking about 5 to 30 people annually that get in fatal accidents on motorcycles in the state, and that's a number that ranges year to year, but how many people die in automobile accidents? Substantially higher than that. So I think we're being disingenuous with some of the discussion. As far as the facts, I think it also is interesting when you look at what the voters of the state of Nebraska have said, because I think Senator Schimek had brought up a point that, you know, Senator Smith, you shouldn't use numbers of these states that have repealed this when you don't support