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LB 303

SENATOR BAKER: I agree. That's what my point was when I just spoke. I think education is losing...we're losing track of the fact that there's so much education required in order to qualify for riding without a helmet.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute. Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Senator Byars asked for the honest truth and I'll give him the honest truth and that is would I rather have a clean repeal of the helmet law? Absolutely, but I've decided to make some concessions relating to age, training, and health insurance. The protective eyewear is an issue that I think is reasonable, because it can potentially prevent a motorcycle rider from infringing on the rights to road safety of another driver or rider. I've been involved in a motorcycle accident when I was little, in fact, a scar on my forehead to prove it. So sometimes this scar makes me perhaps look like I have a scowl on my face when I really don't. But the fact is a helmet would not have prevented that accident. A car pulled out in front of us when I was with my father and the fact is when we look at the big picture, can I support arguments or can I have supportive arguments for the training piece in this bill? Absolutely. And I think I can live with it because I believe it gets to the heart of the safety issue, and that is reducing accidents. And Senator Brown keeps repeating some of these statistics that I believe are a bit distorted and I'll even say biased here in a minute, but I will repeat the fact that more research is needed on these subjects, meaning the medical costs, to provide a more comprehensive picture of the full cost of motorcycle crash injuries. This is not conclusive data, and I want to emphasize that. Will I take up Senator Byars' offer to visit Madonna Rehab Center? Yes, I will. I'm never afraid of seeing more, doing more, as much as my schedule allows. I appreciate that opportunity. I don't think it has to be Madonna. I can go to a nursing home elsewhere or a rehab center elsewhere. And I would, in a very respectful fashion, ask would a helmet have prevented a person from ending up in such a condition. I would