

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

April 9, 2003 LB 303

it's driving a car in a stupid manner, or whatever, you know the e-mail that I'm sure all of you got from an organization that supposedly took a poll and determined that, you know, we need to have the helmet law, that person drew the correlation between an unhelmeted rider and a drunk driver. I'm offended by that. And any thinking person should be offended by that. A drunk driver is much...is a much greater risk to society, to those around him or her, than an unhelmeted rider. And it does not take a great deal of logic to figure that one out. We talk about various freedoms we have, and the gambling issue has been brought up. Even with the gambling that our state has, we don't make them take a math test before they gamble like we make motorcycle riders take a driving test on a motorcycle before they go out. We talk about other freedoms and we talk about discrimination. This amendment is not only discriminatory but it won't work, as I said before. I'll go back to the fact, because Senator Johnson just mentioned it again, it wasn't my...it was not my statement that the activist oriented facts aren't enough as admitted by those folks.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: Even the studies found that high rates of alcohol use or intoxication, particularly among unhelmeted crash victims, so I guess we should have people standing at bars to make sure that drunk people are wearing helmets when they go out. Better yet, let's have dramshop laws because...associated with helmets because, you know, we can...we'll be safer if we put a helmeted...if we put a helmet on a drunk driver. It says they found high rates of alcohol use and intoxication, particularly among unhelmeted crash victims. And they go on to say, and I'll mention this every time the issue is brought up again because I'm responding, more research is needed on these subjects to provide a more comprehensive picture of the full cost of motorcycle crash injuries. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Landis

SENATOR LANDIS: I was sorely tempted to call the question, which I think probably would improve the quality of debate here, if we did it a little more often. But just like you, I can't