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LB 303

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Maybe the hospital, maybe the doctor.

SENATOR VRTISKA: What does that do then, that just drives up the cost of healthcare for the rest of us, and then the bottom line that I'm trying to get in my mind, if that, in fact, happens, then, in essence, we, the people, are going to pay the bill. Is that correct or not?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Well, if we don't adopt the amendment, and there's...and they aren't wearing a helmet, and there's a head injury that could have been minimized or avoided by reason of wearing a helmet, we're going to have the cost anyway.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I understand what you're saying and I don't object to your amendment except what I'm trying to visualize is these people who have injuries and have no recourse for rehab or for long-term care or for hospitalization or for doctor's care, and they don't have any money, somebody is going to have to pay the bill, and I would assume that if doctors and hospitals have to absorb that cost, about the only thing left for them to do is pass it on to the rest of the consumers of healthcare. So my, I guess my rationale is, in the long term, we, the users of those facilities, are going to end up paying the bill in any event, whether it's through state funds or through our own care that we're needed to be provided by these hospitals and by these doctors. That's the only thing that bothers me about your amendment. I support the amendment from the standpoint that this is the way it should be. I'm still concerned about these people who don't have any money that are going to have to be provided some kind of care and who is going to provide it? And if it's going to be the facilities that they are in, then I guess reasonable people would assume that they are going to have to pass that cost on to somebody because they can't afford not to. So that's the part that I have...that I don't understand how we can adopt this amendment and not be assured somehow that it's not going to drive up the cost of healthcare for all the people that use healthcare. And if you can give me some more reasons why this won't happen, I could be very comfortable with it.