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FLOOR DEBATE

April 9, 2003            LB 303

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Well, Senator Vrtiska, you've done a wonderful job of articulating exactly the dilemma. We have tough choices to make. We have a tough choice to make as to whether or not we're going to continue to require the helmet. We have a tough choice to make as to whether or not we are going to allow anybody under any circumstances to ride without it, and then we have a tough choice to make about who, if anybody, is going to pay for the consequences. And the whole issue is fraught with tough choices, and...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...they've always been before us every time we've dealt with this issue or thought about dealing with this issue, tough choices.

SENATOR VRTISKA: I certainly agree with you and I think this...these are tough choices that this body is going to have to make, and however it comes out. I guess just alluding to your amendment, that's the problem that I have with it. The idea is sound, it has a lot of merit, but I have a problem with it because I feel like those costs are going to have to be paid for by somebody and, in this particular case, the hard choice that we talk about means that the provide...the users of healthcare are ultimately going to have to pay the bill. If the ones who are injured or in long-term care don't have the means to pay it, somebody is going to have to pay it and I would assume that, as I indicated earlier, it's going to be those who are provided healthcare for other services. So thank you for your input and I have mixed emotions about the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: I call the question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question before the body is, shall debate cease on AM1198 to the committee amendments to LB 303? All in favor of the question vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on ceasing debate. Question before the body is ceasing debate. Have you