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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 303

view. It happens to be the one that I adopted. But I'm careful about trying to impose, by way of the law, my view and my philosophical belief on people at large who are doing something, especially when I have no interest in doing it at all. So in many areas of life the statement "assumption of risk" is utilized, and in some activities a person is assume...is presumed to have assumed the risk, and whatever negative consequences follow from that person's conduct are on that individual. So since this bill is talking about adults, and adults may choose to do whatever they want to do, and they can do anything they want to unless we by law make it a crime, I say leave people alone. Leave them to their own devices. Putting a helmet on somebody's head is not going to make that person a safer driver of the motorcycle. It's not going to make the person not drive under the influence or do any of the things that might cause accidents. We cannot even say, when we're given all of these statistics about the head injuries, that the motorcycle operator was at fault. It probably would be better for the safety of people riding in that exposed condition on a motorcycle, to have to wear a flexible metal suit that is padded on the inside and capable of absorbing a tremendous amount of shock without the individual inside being harmed. But we're not going to do that, so we say put something on top of the head or around the head and that's going to protect the person. Maybe so, and maybe not. Somebody being sarcastic in responding to the kind of arguments I'm giving had said, well, at least the helmet provides a bucket in which to carry the brains that will be splattered when somebody is hit the proper way, even wearing a helmet. I don't think there will ever be complete agreement on this issue. It touches many people where they live and where many will die. I believe that people who ride motorcycles are the types who are willing to take risks.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Exposed as you are, the thing could get a blowout. Somebody could dislike motorcyclists and deliberately run into them, as happened to a young man I knew very well and I grew up with his family, and he was killed on a ramp on the highway, and there were racial slurs shouted at the time this car hit him and ran him into this abutment, because people who