

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

April 9, 2003

LB 303

were nearby heard what was said. When people assume that risk, I think it's foolish, but that doesn't put me in a position where I think I should bring into play the coercive power of the state to make that particular group of people do what I think they ought to do when I'm not going to seek legislation to make everybody else do what I think they ought to do. And with that, I will sit down and say farewell, my young brothers and sisters, and don't forget what I told you--study and do well.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Legislature, just briefly, I feel the need to respond to Senator Chambers and tell you my philosophy, and I hope it will be yours. As legislators, we make the Rules of the Road. We have 182 pages of Rules of the Road in this book and they govern motorcyclists. And when we talk about assumption of risk, it's the risk that we permit on our roads. These are our responsibilities to set the safety standards and it will be our responsibility to tell the taxpayers that we're now going to put another burden on them. Because a lot of people will, if this law passes, not have helmets on. They're going to end up in our system and we are going to pay for them for a long, long, long time. So when you talk about assumption of risk, we're just not talking about individual behavior. We're talking about the assumption of risk by this Legislature to pass this bill and have an Appropriations Committee sit here year after year and figure out how we're going to pay for the people, because they'll run out of resources, they will, with the costs of head injuries. So we're making assumptions of risk for our constituents, for the rest of the people who will pay for this law. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Smith, there are no further lights on. You're recognized to close on advancement of LB 303, if you care to.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I'll try to be brief. Let me begin by saying that the roads across this state, in my opinion, belong to the 1.7 million people of our