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FLOOR DEBATE

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personal watercraft out in Scotts Bluff County was from Colorado, was 14 years old, and had not had a training course. I think the major change in this bill is the training, those under 21 and then eventually those under 25. And it's not the 14- and 16-year-olds who have had the training class that are the problems. It's the ones that are older. There's no more mature supervision and alcohol becomes involved. And from that standpoint, I think the training courses are beneficial. But use your judgment. If you think this is too much, too fast, I understand. The Natural Resources Committee spent a considerable amount of time on the boating bill and we did because the original proposal would have banned people from driving boats or jet skis if they're under the age 16. And water sports are something that are a lot of fun, but keep in mind these machines are getting bigger all the time and more dangerous, and so that's the reason this bill has emphasized the increased training. With that, I give the rest of my time back to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the Legislature, certainly being on the Health Committee for a number of years, I will vote for anything that would produce and help with the health and safety of our citizenry. I do, however, find it a little inconsistent that we'll support a bill like this where there is one individual from last year that was killed, and certainly we need to do everything for that one life, but however, yesterday we passed from General File a bill to repeal the helmet law, which is going to cause much more deaths than this will save. And so I just want to bring to the body's attention that...how we can become so wrapped up in an issue on water but, yet, on our roads we completely ignore that issue. And just what Senator Schrock, when he spoke the first time, said that we'll do this on water but, yet, we kill many more people on the roads. But yesterday we had the opportunity, I think, to save some lives and we passed that out of first round, and I just hope that the next time that bill comes up that you'll think a little bit about where we are; that we need some consistency. I'll vote for this amendment and I'll vote for the bill, but I would just ask you to think about lives,