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LB 303

motorcyclists and helmets. And also another handout that I got, a letter from Health and Human Services. A couple of months ago we asked for some numbers relating to the cost of Medicaid for motorcycles, and I'll get to that later. But I want to first speak against AM1365 because I view it primarily as a delaying tactic, and it talks about the secondary offense. And we looked at that in the beginning and the practical issue here is do we want law enforcement pulling over someone who could be very innocent. Now Senator Byars and I, we disagree fundamentally on what the role of law enforcement is on the road. It's been very interesting. I've gotten e-mail saying, well, we need the helmet law because we have stop signs and we have speed limits. Different issue. Stop signs and speed limits relate to interactive traffic. We have stop signs to protect one driver from another. We have helmets to protect someone from themselves. To me law enforcement has better things to do than to try to protect people from themselves. When we talked about limited resources in our state and expecting public employees to do more with less, expecting them to protect people from themselves to me is asking too much. Now I've been criticized for using economic arguments in my support for LB 303 in wanting to bring more traffic through Nebraska, motorcycle traffic. And there are a lot of dollars out there. We've talked about promoting tourism across Nebraska because we have a lot of scenic beauty, but yet we have some regulations that are burdensome when you look at that bigger picture. But let's look at the smaller picture of someone going to the grocery store on the motorcycle without a helmet. I don't understand why someone should be pulled over by law enforcement merely because they don't have a helmet on. Now my bill says they can still be pulled over for speeding, and then if they did not prove the other necessities for going without a helmet, then they're guilty, actually after the proceedings of the full law. But let's go back to the economics. I was...I've been criticized for using economics as my basis of support for LB 303. However, really the only opposition argument has been economics. And that's why I share with you the letter from HHS that states in the second to the last paragraph...oh, let me start the paragraph before where it first states that we are sorry that at this time we are not able to provide you with the complete information, but then they go on to say that within the limitations, the attached data shows