

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 303

and that is that we need to maintain the helmet law that we have here in Nebraska. And I will just indulge the body to a letter that was sent to me by the head of the State Trauma Board of Nebraska: One of the purposes of state government is to ensure safety of its citizens and citizens of other states who choose to travel within our boundaries. The arguments for this bill have been primarily centered on individual rights and freedom of action. The state has historically chosen to protect its citizens against unnecessary deaths and disabilities by passing certain laws to ensure citizens' safety. Such laws include speed limits, stop signs, traffic lights, seat belts, and helmet laws for motorcycle riders. All of the abovementioned elements and many others are in place to protect our citizens and those of other states. Historically, it's fact that the incident of death and disability decrease dramatically whenever helmet laws are instituted. We've seen this across our nation. States that have repealed the laws, they have seen an increase. Going on, he says, in addition to the number of injured unhelmeted motorcyclists should be expected to increase, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has found that unhelmeted motorcyclists are three times more likely to suffer brain injury compared with helmeted motorcyclists. It is in the best interest of our state and citizens of other states to maintain the helmet law of this state. As a concerned State Trauma Advisory Board, State of Nebraska, whose charge is to lessen death and disability from trauma, we urge you to vote against LB 303 to protect our citizens. The educational component attached to this bill will not protect a motorcycle rider from a severe head injury when a motorcycle rider crashes into a larger vehicle, tree or other object. In addition, riders from other states will not be affected by our basic motorcycle education program. And that's true, whether they're coming in and riding through our state. Riding a motorcycle is inherently dangerous and the state should maintain minimal protection high risk. We believe the information and the statistical data proves overwhelmingly that helmet use minimizes cost, prevents injury and...head injury and saves lives. This is submitted by the Trauma Board of Nebraska. Just want to read just a few of these: Joseph Stothers, University Hospital, Omaha; Chester Paul, St. Elizabeth, Lincoln; Reginald Burton, BryanLGH; Ray Gaines, Creighton Medical Center;...