

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

May 16, 2003

LB 303

I've seen and experiences I have accumulated. Once a person is so educated, there is no way in good faith to endorse an unhelmeted riding, no matter how strict the law is as compared to surrounding states. I think that is quite a statement. He says I love freedom. I cherish my right to choose my method of transportation. However, in this nation no group has the right to impose its wishes on others without good cause. Riding under a helmet law imposes the wishes of the state on riders but does so with good...with the good of society as a whole as a mantle, Riding without a helmet also imposes the wishes of one group on others but in a purely self-centered manner. The helmetless rider demands that the state of Nebraska and the taxpaying public subsidize a risky choice the rider makes for his own selfish pleasure. Take away the per se definition of negligence by eliminating the law and tort claims will rise. This is an issue because most motorcycle-car collisions are the fault of the motorist. And where tort claims go, so do insurance premiums, if insurance remains available at all. Just ask any Omaha homeowner with a new roof and even one no-fault claim can do to the availability of affordable insurance. He goes on to say the only good that can come out of the repeal of a helmet law came to me by my mother-in-law who works in a lab at a hospital. Her statement, at least a good supply of donor organs will reappear. And we hear that many times from those within our hospitals and those who are providing care. Please let me know what might be the most effective for me to personally do and to ensure that this bill dies and stays dead because I'm convinced that if this bill doesn't die lots of riders will. Bill Mulherin, and he's with the Safety and Health Council of Omaha. And that's just typical, typical of the many letters that we have that are so concerned about its citizens. And these people, here is an individual who rides a motorcycle, who teaches safety, but he says anyone who has the education and the knowledge will certainly support a helmet law. We do have a good helmet law in Nebraska. It has...

SENATOR VRTISKA: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...saved lives in the past. It will continue to save lives in the future. If you're in Topeka, Kansas, you're not going to drive over to Iowa or to Colorado to go up