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LB 303

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you. And I only touch on that issue because I believe it's very important when we talk about costs and rising costs and, as I've characterized it, as carnage and mayhem, we need to be careful about the numbers we use. Now the numbers that I've collected here are significantly lower. And that's why I refer to the Health and Human Services, the ones who write the check for the Medicaid, that's why I refer to the information they list, and it's considerably different. But I want to go back to what I started on, and LB 303 seeks to treat motorcyclists like everyone else. Right now they are treated as second class citizens. And I don't even own a motorcycle, have a motorcycle license, and I have to tell you that when I came into this body, I was a little apprehensive about this issue. But the more I've looked at the numbers, the more I've looked at the reasonable requests, the stronger I feel that we can, as the state of Nebraska, instead of taking away freedoms, we can restore some. So I look to the fact, you know when we hear people say, well, motorcyclists, they don't have insurance, we end up paying for them. Well, the fact is motorcyclists have insurance about the same amount of time as a car driver or a car owner, someone involved in a car accident. It's about the same, but yet we don't single out car drivers like we single out motorcycle riders. And we hear from health professionals, and there are consistent viewpoints, and there are consistent viewpoints. There is a consistent viewpoint that I see and that's health care providers, health professionals, who ride a motorcycle, they generally say, you know, we're responsible enough to decide for ourselves, especially with the training. And we have the opportunity with LB 303 to increase the number of trained riders. Now training on motorcycles prevents accidents. A helmet will not prevent an accident from occurring, will not. Flat out, will not prevent an accident from occurring. So we have the opportunity to treat motorcyclists like others. Now the reason why I'm opposed to this amendment is because it's an assumption that someone is guilty just by the way they look. Now,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...imagine for a moment if we said, now we all know it's important to have a driver's license, what if we made