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LB 303

other words, if you didn't have it...

SENATOR SMITH: Okay, so 60 out of 100, I mean 60 out of 100 what?

SENATOR JENSEN: If you're wearing a helmet, it's effective in preventing brain trauma injury. If you don't have one, the chances would be 67 percent higher than if you did have a helmet.

SENATOR SMITH: Sixty-seven times more likely to sustain an injury wearing a helmet than not wearing a helmet?

SENATOR JENSEN: No, no, not wearing a helmet as opposed to wearing a helmet.

SENATOR SMITH: I'm sorry. Yes. Okay, because...I mean I could say that...I mean when you take percentages and so forth and in 2000 there were three fatalities on motorcycles, and in 2001 there were 12. But it would be unfair for me to say that there were 400 percent more. I mean, so I can use a lot of numbers to support an argument, but we need to look at all the information, and that's why the Miami Herald, who repealed their helmet law, in fact, now the deaths did go up, but you know what? There were 20 percent more motorcycles on the road. So the death rate per 10,000 riders went down, in fact. That...it went down when you look at deaths per 10,000. Now the doctors would say deaths went up, and that's what they saw firsthand, and I would expect them to do that. But when you take a comprehensive look at things, that's what's important. We need to look at the comprehensive picture, the big picture, and that's why the Miami Herald says, motorcycle deaths soared, but even the experts don't know why. And they go on to say that they don't know why because there hasn't been a comprehensive study done since the seventies, and that's why when you even look further, you know, I received some information from some other folks opposing LB 303, but even their information says that their data is not conclusive. And I really think that it's important, we heard from Senator Hartnett, and I appreciated his remarks, when it said, if we're going to err between government restriction and freedom, I think we'd better err on the side of freedom,