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FLOOR DEBATE

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to be. Now they've ducked their heads and want to get quiet and wish they weren't on the floor. We all know who they are. They know who they are. But they don't care about the children, and I do. And I mean what I say about these rural people, because they're the ones who want the Legislature to go along with giving them blanket right or a license to endanger these children. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers and Senator Aguilar. Senator Baker, followed by Senator Schrock, McDonald, Chambers, and Beutler. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. I'm going to reiterate some of what Senator Beutler went over in his amendment and try and stress the differences between the bill as it came out of the committee with the agricultural exemption in it and so on, where we are now. It's moved from 16 to 18 years of age, anyone 18 or under; made it a primary offense now, not a secondary offense. And point out that the deaths that...I knew this was coming from Senator Aguilar, because we heard a lot of statistics in hearings this week. I'm one of those people that listens to the media, reads the newspapers and so on, on these various issues. As an EMT, I'm interested in what it is that's injuring or, in some cases, fatal accidents and so on and seat belts and whatnot. I can think back of one child fatality in southwest Nebraska dealing with, and I...there may be another one someplace, but I can think of one out there, and it's been many years ago, where a child fell out of the back of a pickup. It was not in a rural area. It was in the town of McCook, as I recall, so it wasn't a rural accident where this child was fatally injured at all. I do believe, with Senator Kremer, that very responsible, and in his case, down east, I know there's more people riding in the backs of pickups between jobs whether it's bean fields or detasseling and so on. So that's the way it came out of the committee, Transportation Committee, and I could support it then, and now I'm having a difficult time. I will admit that we advanced a bill out of committee, would have been Monday, I believe...Tuesday, Tuesday that does raise the age to...or I'm sorry. It doesn't change the age. It simply makes it an offense to not be buckled in. You know, we have the front seat passengers and we had an amendment to a bill a couple years