

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

February 12, 2004 LB 227

other place in the state, they should have the safety standard of this bill. And I don't care if it's grandpa or the next door neighbor taking them somewhere, or anyone else, when we put the rules in place, people follow the rules. And parents look to the state and people look to the state for the safety standards. If we want to throw out all these rules, we can set ourselves back a hundred years, if you want, and you can have kids flopped all over the car, front seat, back seat. You can have them in the back of a pickup now maybe. I don't think you can under the law. I think they need to be restrained if they are under 16. I commend Senator Aguilar for bringing this bill year after year. It's something you may not feel because a couple of constituents want to drive kids around in the back of pickups. Well, I think it's time and its time has come. We have the research. We have the science. We have the recommendations. It should be a standard in Nebraska, and we shouldn't say that the kids in the rural areas should be subjected to this danger just because they're in the rural areas, just because there is some agricultural interest in that. Accommodations can be made. We know they can be made. My kids detasseled. They had vans for them. They had buses for them. They don't have to throw people in the back of a pickup...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...anymore to do business in this state. So in conclusion, I would say when you cast your vote on this bill, put a picture of a child in your mind, a child that's been riding in the back of a pickup, hit a bump, hit another car, it doesn't matter how fast they're going, landed on his head or her head, maybe was even decapitated in the process. Is that...where does that weigh in terms of our safety? Do you want to save that child's life? We set the standard and we adults can adjust to that. Children aren't at the mental...developmental capacity to make those decisions. When an adult says get in the back of the pickup, they'll do it. Let's think about that child and what's best for her or for him and set the standard so that our citizens know what's safe for kids. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Tyson,