

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 12, 2004 LB 227

Brown, Senator Cudaback, Senator Baker. All members present or accounted for, Senator Aguilar, you're recognized to close on advancement of LB 227 to E & R for engrossing. Senator Aguilar.

SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you, Mr. President, and thank everyone for their time and for their comments. I really appreciate it. It's been a great discussion this morning, and it's been a battle, but it's been a battle worth fighting. You know, I'll never feel bad about that. It's something I feel is important. We've heard a lot of discussion. We've heard the grandfather-grandson discussion, which I think is quite appropriate. But I think it's important, I contend that it's important that grandfathers not put their grandsons at risk. That's important, and when they go in the back of the pickup, they're at risk. I'm sorry, they're at risk, and we need to be cognizant of that. Some of the other discussions we've had early on, the common sense thing came back again, that we shouldn't have to legislate that. But we do and it saves lives, so how do you argue with that? I'm really amazed at some of the opposition to this because, quite frankly, if you think about it, what would happen if this bill passed? What would happen if this would become law? You see five or six kids in the back of a pickup and a law enforcement, county sheriff or whatever, pulls them over; you know, what's he going to do? Chances are he is going to say, you know what, you need to get those kids out of the back of that pickup; that's against the law now. That's probably what's going to happen. Worst case scenario, they would get fined \$25, and they'd probably never do it again. Now is that so bad? To hear some of the arguments on this floor, you would think they were going to get the electric chair, wouldn't you? I ask you, is \$25 that bad? How many of these rural people are going to go broke if they have to pay that \$25 fine? And I would think they would only do it once. They would only do it once, and then figure out that maybe we ought to use the van next time. Maybe we ought to take the pickup with six seats in it to seat six people and there is enough room for all the kids to be belted in. I think that's pretty important, isn't it? There has been a lot of questions brought up about whether or not the statistics I gave earlier, you know, why would that be, and I would give you, you know, some reasons that came to light for that. For one thing, in the