

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

April 19, 2005 LB 70

situation sound worse than it is. I'm not saying you've done that, but the lobby has done that. And I just...I beg you, I beg you, Senator Schimek, to look at all of the information. And I'm sending around a chart that will speak to that. I know, Senator Johnson, you feel I'm unqualified to send around a chart. This chart speaks for itself. I'll let you make your own conclusions. In fact, I won't even speak to the chart. I ask you to simply look at it, so that you can draw your own conclusion. Now, Senator Schimek went down a list of those in support of mandating helmets in Nebraska. (Laugh) I guess I could have come up with a similar list on just about any issue. I can come up with a list...in fact, I deliberately encouraged the testifiers in favor of LB 70 to stand back a little bit for the hearing, because we've gone through this before, we need not repeat ourselves. But it comes down to this. Can we restore just a little bit of freedom, as long as some responsibility is encouraged? Now, Senator Johnson used some numbers, again, that are intended to mislead. Or, if they're not intended, certainly it heads in that direction. But he used the number of licenses. The number of licenses is not an accurate representation of the number of motorcyclists out there. The best number is registrations. That's the number that we need to use. You know, it was interesting. I went to a luncheon a couple weeks ago with an association that was on Senator Schimek's list. And I thought about taking along a food taster with me, but I thought, maybe not this time. And actually, I was encouraged, because there were several people at that luncheon...now, the organization itself was opposed to it. They're on your list, Senator Schimek. The organization itself was opposed. But the individual members, the individual members came up to me--not every single one, of course, and I would say, not a whole lot--but some came up to me and said, you know, we like that LB 70. We think that training mechanism is good, and we believe that we should have the right to decide for ourselves whether or not to wear a helmet. I mean, Senator Johnson insinuated that LB 70 is intended to remove a helmet. Is that how we view legislation, is either to place it on or remove it? I hope not. We have an issue before us where we can restore just a little bit of freedom, just a little bit of freedom, encourage responsibility, and move forward. I myself am very, I guess, sensitive to traumatic injuries. The sight of blood makes me