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FLOOR DEBATE

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affected. But I really have a struggle that any time that hospitals, nurses, physicians come forward and very emphatically say, do not, do not repeal the helmet law; we have saved lives. Also, I have talked with people in ER. I've been up to Quality Living, a facility that treats people with brain injuries, and have seen that rehabilitation, and have seen the cost that that takes. I know people who have also been in motorcycle injuries, and the head trauma that happens. And actually, the fatalities is only a part of it. The long-term issue of somebody who has had a brain trauma injury is tremendous. And one thing that they're finding out now is that 15-20 years later, after an accident, where you think there's been a recovery, that they have found, because of damaged tissue, sometimes behavior problems occur, 15-20 years later, after a brain trauma injury. There is a...more prone to even developing tumors in that frontal lobe. What I am really saying is, I don't see that Nebraska can afford to change its status on the motorcycle helmet law. It does save lives. It does save injuries. Now, I look around. I love to go to the baseball games. You don't see a batter standing at the plate without a helmet. The other day, I was at my son's house. He lives on a cul-de-sac. Twelve kids out there riding bicycles; every one of them had a helmet on. In the construction industry, everyone has hard hats on. That's a piece of plastic, mind you. But there's a band around it, there's a cushion there. Does it save lives? I tell you, it saves a lot of injuries. And you don't go on a construction job without that requirement being there. Helmets are part of that, because they also have saved injuries and that brain trauma. I would just implore you, as much as Senator Smith wants to change this and implores you to do likewise, it is not a freedom issue. It is an issue of responsibility. It is an issue of what is right. It is an issue of cost to the state. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: Oh, one minute? You know, it's interesting that the freedom issue...why do we have speeding laws? Why do we have stop signs? Do those take away your freedom? Sure they do. What about the rural community? Can you buy a tractor today without a rollover protection, ROP? No. It comes that way. They also...tractors have seat belts. Why do they do