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FLOOR DEBATE

April 19, 2005      LB 70

years, we will have spent \$22 million, just at two brain trauma per year, because they did not have protection for the head when they hit a curb. And at the end of 30 years...and I'm stretching this out only to 30 years, which is also conservative. A 20-year-old might live past 50. But I'm just saying, it goes for 30 years; at the end of 30 years, there's \$12 million per year, using today's figures. These are conservative figures. They are projections. There's no way of our knowing. But they're a serious enough projection that it tells me we have a serious decision to make here. I certainly hope that no one who votes for this bill will come around and talk about places in the budget where they would like to increase a little bit, or trying to reduce the budget someplace. If we are prepared to add \$16 million to the budget over the next 20 years, we're talking about serious money, we're talking about money that competes with schools and healthcare and all of the rest of that. I think we have to take that into consideration. I think we have to look at what we are doing in terms of budget. Now, the bottom line to this is, when we spend \$22 million over the next ten years, we will not have bought anything. We will have purchased misery. We will have purchased broken lives and families that are disrupted. We will have nothing to show for it, whereas in other places of the budget, this year in particular, we're looking at the use of funds that would be an investment that would have a payback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR KRUSE: There is no payback to this. I urge your careful thought about the costs of a helmet bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kruse. Senator Byars, followed by Senator Johnson.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. And thank you, everyone who has participated and who will participate in this debate. And certainly, Senator Smith, I'm not going to thank you for introducing the legislation. I wish you hadn't have. But I do respect you for your passion. I think that's appropriate. And I'd like to call on everybody that's involved in the debate--Senator Smith, his supporters, those of us who