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FLOOR DEBATE

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couldn't think of what it was. Maybe they're looking at it as objectively as they can. But when you consider that overall, not just Nebraska statistics but looking at it everywhere that this is the fact, then taking it in a cumulative way, that's a very, very significant difference. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration estimates that motorcycle helmets reduce the likelihood of a crash fatality by 37 percent. Other information found...other studies found that motorcycle helmets are 67 percent effective in preventing brain injuries and that unhelmeted motorcyclists involved in crashes were three times more likely to suffer brain injuries. The cumulative effect of these figures is very, very significant. From 1984 to 2002, the National Center estimates that helmets saved the lives of 13,774 motorcyclists. And I won't go on with that. A Southern California study analyzed 3,600 traffic crash reports involving motorcycle crashes concluded that wearing helmets was the single most important factor in surviving motorcycle crashes. A 1994 study by the National Public Services Research Institute concluded that wearing motorcycle helmets does not restrict a rider's ability to hear auditory signals or see a vehicle in an adjacent lane. There have been other studies that have looked into that and negated that particular argument. They have a section on cost savings. Analysis of linked data from the Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System in three states with universal helmet laws showed that without the helmet law the total extra inpatient charges due to brain injury would have almost doubled from just over 2 million to just over 4 million.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: They have other cost data in here that's compelling. University of Nebraska Medical Center looked at motorcyclists' hospital charges from 1994 to 2004. With respect to those that were wearing helmets, the average hospital charge was \$19,436. For those who were not wearing helmets, it was more than double that, \$45,947. The Government Accounting Agency, and now that's not a prejudiced source; the Government Accounting Agency reviewed 46 studies of motorcycle helmets and helmet laws. They found that helmeted riders have up to a 73 percent lower fatality rate than unhelmeted riders. Helmeted riders have up to an 85 percent reduced incidence of severe,