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Highway Transportation Safety Administration study on what percentage of motorcyclists themselves support a helmet law--62 percent. Now the evidence in some of the states that have repealed their helmet laws is not that 62 percent of the people still wear their helmets,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...but at least with respect to this survey, 62 percent of those motorcyclists...of all motorcyclists thought there ought to be a motorcycle helmet law. The study then goes on to address several of what it calls the common myths. Helmets cause neck or spinal cord injury; that was one myth. Research has proven this untrue. Five studies reviewed by the GAO all reported a higher incident of severe neck injuries for unhelmeted riders. An Illinois study found that helmets decrease the number of significant spinal injuries. Next myth: helmets impair hearing and sight. The helmet affects my peripheral vision and I can't hear as well are two common myths, neither of which is supported by scientific data, and I will go on about that the next chance I have to speak.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Engel, followed by Senator Schimek.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. President and members of the body, over the years I have talked on this bill many, many times. This time what I would like to mention is that the education portion of the bill I certainly approve of because, in most cases...I was in the insurance business for many, many years. In most cases when there's a motorcycle accident, the motorcyclist himself was legally in the right, and so therefore, by requiring education and teach them defensive driving, if this bill goes through...I'm not going to support the bill, but if this bill would go through, I think the education portion of it is so, so important because...to teach them defensive driving, because only they can prevent the accidents because they are not seen