

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

April 19, 2005 LB 70

whether we want to increase...or not increase but to adopt a strict training requirement in exchange for some exercise of personal freedom. And I think it would be worth the time and effort we're taking to do just that. I encourage people...I can't support Senator Beutler's amendment, quite frankly. With that, all we have left is a training bill and I don't think that's what we're going to adopt. I don't...can't speak for Senator Smith but I think, after having heard testimony...I also want to address Senator Schimek's questions about proponents. We specifically met with some of the proponents and agreed that we'd have some very direct and to-the-point testimony in exchange for not having a roomful of people who wanted time to testify at the bill, proponents. We could have...I'm sure we could have overwhelmed the opponents with sheer numbers if that's what we wanted to do, but we did not. We had some very effective proponents who provided us with the training issues. I think that the ABATE training program, if you want to see a copy of it, we have that in the office. It was to the point, very direct, and good testimony by the proponents. And as you've noted,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BAKER: ...there were a lot of opponents testify. But quite frankly, after reading through the testimony, it is...certainly refreshes my memory what all we had come through the committee that day. It was basically a repeat, one after another. Senator Schimek, you've been through that in your committees, not much new. I asked several questions dealing with the statistics. I think maybe we ought to quit focusing on statistics because no one is going to believe the other folks' statistics. They're all going to be skewed one way or another, according to your position. And there was questions raised in the committee several times about why the other states with...not met...did not have mandatory helmets had lower fatality rates, and it typically came back to education. That was the one current issue that remained constant in there, was education was important and, as I have said on before on the mike, the people that I know who have gone through the training course continually tell me that's the best course they've ever taken of any kind.