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FLOOR DEBATE

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was 96 percent compliance with the law, as you would more or less expect. Then in the years after repeal, it eventually dropped down in the year 2001, the last year that they had here, to 56 percent of the people were using helmets. So still, even with no requirement, more than half of the people were using the helmets. In Louisiana, where they had 100 percent compliance with the law when it was the law, it dropped down to, in the year 2001, to 52 percent...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...were wearing their helmets. So you know, even if you're thinking of this in terms of majority rule of the people who are affected, it would be interesting to know what the majority of motorcyclists in Nebraska feel about this. I'm not sure they would be in favor of repealing the helmet law because close to a majority of them are choosing to wear their helmets. They're choosing to wear them because they know it's safe, and they are basically reinforcing what you and I...or what I'm at least arguing on this floor, that they are a safety factor, a significant one. People choose to use them. And it is not unreasonable to ask the others to use theirs also.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: We ask people who drive cars, the rest of us who don't ride motorcycles...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Jensen.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'm going to start in the way that I have before. Statistics mean nothing to me whatsoever. Nobody is going to be persuaded by statistics to move from his or her position to a different one. However, there might be the opportunity to cause people to think a little bit about what it is we're trying to do