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

April 19, 2005 LB 70

It's not a freedom issue. It is a cosmetic issue, in that some people don't want to get their hair messed up by wearing a helmet, Senator Stuthman. (Laugh) But that's really where it And when I was young and in construction business, I did not want to wear that hard hat, because I had a crew cut that was absolutely perfect, and I didn't want that helmet crushing my crew cut. That's what it's about -- that, and letting the wind blow through your hair, or ears, or whatever it is. But there is not a restriction of freedom here at all. Senator Chambers, you know about freedom. You know what slavery is. And so I don't think that we need to talk that this is a freedom issue. It's a cosmetic issue. You don't look as good with a helmet on That's all it is. But it would seem to me that if your head. safety, we really believe in that Senator Beutler's bill...amendment makes perfect sense. Now, whether you're wearing a helmet or not, does it really help in an accident? know a young man, 22 years old. He was driving his motorcycle, hit an oak tree. He had a broken arm, broken femur, broken pelvis, broken jaw, two collapsed lungs, broken shoulder, and yes, a head injury, because he was not wearing a helmet, and was in a coma for three weeks. Twenty-five years later, still suffers from short-term memory. And I don't know what will happen in the future, because I said that they have found that 15-20 years later, after accidents, that there is scar damage, many times, from...particularly in the frontal lobes, from injuries, that cause behavior problems. We're trying to address also mental health and behavior problems. Also, there's a greater increase of tumors from that same head trauma. It would just seem to me that there is...if we want to be sensible about this whole thing, that we're talking really about two issues--we're talking about safety; we're talking about dollars. It is going to cost more dollars if we repeal this. And I don't know who said it earlier in the day, but that if we repeal this law, that we better look at all of the healthcare costs going up, because it will. It...you cannot deny that. Then I also take a little bit of offense when you talk about a doctor that has written many times on this issue. And I think that doctor would be Dr. Manion. He works at Creighton, he works at Immanuel. He's been a stalwart for many, many years for the helmet law. Why? Because he sees young people, young men, young women, come into that emergency room, beat up, all...and