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FLOOR DEBATE

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individuals to prevail, because most of the time common sense will prevail. I can't say every single time. I can't say every single time, but I will say most of the time common sense will prevail. We'll have a lot of happy citizens out there. Because I certainly can't say that we've achieved lower taxes and lower insurance rates by having a helmet law on the books. And I would ask for information that could support otherwise. Again, I strongly urge you to vote against Senator Beutler's amendment, and we can move on to the subsequent amendments, and hopefully come to a vote today. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Smith.      Senator Howard, followed by Senator Mines.

SENATOR HOWARD:      Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members of the house, thank you. The unexpected happens. And you don't have to ride a motorcycle to know the devastation of the loss of a loved one or a family member. And having said that, I would like to offer the remainder of my time to Senator Beutler. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY:      Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you, Senator Howard. I wanted to go on with these statistics a little bit. But I think we all understand that we're trying to find a balance here. Nobody wants to put helmets on everybody. Nobody wants to prohibit what is a dangerous activity, riding motorcycles. But we're trying to find a balance that honors freedom and individuality, but at the same time makes reasonable requirements, in order to protect, in a financial sense, society, to protect families, to protect the several different interests that are societal in nature, not the least of which are the kinds of devastating emotional costs that a family bears when a loved one is lost. Kids without parents are one of our most significant problems. But again, looking at the statistics, helmets matter. Helmets make a difference. And you know, as I think about this, Senator Smith offers very little in terms of significant statistics or information that would argue for his side. He argues with respect to the voluminous matters that are on the side of those who would require helmets that the information is not precise