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FLOOR DEBATE

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all walks of life. And I just don't want that left on the record the way it was. Thank you. Sorry.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, tempted as I am to call the question, perhaps the time isn't exactly right. So I'm going to use this opportunity to make about two minutes of argument. I think that a debate about sources and data is fruitless. Who can't tell that wearing a motorcycle helmet isn't safer than not wearing a motorcycle helmet? That is...now, in the very limited number of cases...and slow learner that he is, perhaps Senator Chambers is quick to say that he can't figure it out. I can figure it out. We all know that fact. You hit the curb with a helmet, you're going to have a little bit less damage than hitting the curb without a helmet. And is it going to cost money? Absolutely, it's going to cost money. Is there a social cost to danger and risk? Absolutely, there is. I think the body of evidence is essentially indisputable. I think Senator Thompson hit it right when she said, look, those things really aren't the controversy here. The question is how much we value, or not, the cost, the social impact of allowing the risk of the freedom to ride. For many of us, it's not great enough. That is to say, the cost is too great, the social impact on the rest of us is too great, the misery from those who are left behind is too great, the loss of life is too great; and for others of us, it's not. I'm going to come down on the side...as I seem to grow older, being more libertarian, and I'm going to come down on the side of stupidly exercised choice, again. The one little wrinkle I'm going to add is this, that this session we have been relatively quick at identifying the stupid acts of minorities to condemn. The majorities who don't smoke want the nonsmokers to take it someplace else. Now, we have a rule that's essentially the same thing as the helmet, and that's the seat belt law. And for those of us who are in the majority who drive cars, our rule is, you know, if we do it, it's not a real violation of the law until we do something else. For the rule for the majority, we get a king's X when it comes to telling us what to do. We've given ourselves a little place in our back pocket where, unless we're doing something else wrong, it's not really a violation of