

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

April 19, 2005      LB 70

the law if we don't have our seat belts on. Because you know why? That would be telling a majority what to do, and we've given the majority a way out. Do we do the same thing for a minority of motorcycle drivers? No. We say, we'll be happy to tell you what you have to do. And it's an offense, no matter what happens. It doesn't make a difference if you're doing something else. You are in violation of the law, pulled over and ticketed, if you don't have your helmet on. We don't do the same for us when we're a majority, but we'll do it to the minority. It is a wrinkle that makes me uncomfortable in deciding when we will tell people what to do and when we won't, that we treat the majority better than we treat the minority, and that we don't seem to have a sensible principle going on back and forth, other than, we are generally treating majorities better than we're treating minorities. That makes me a little uncomfortable. That's one of the reasons that I'm going to oppose the Jensen amendment. Thank you.

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

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I could substitute, I think, everything--and Senator Landis brought this up--substitute everything he said for alcohol, tobacco. If we want to save lives, we're nibbling around the edges here. We've got to be talking about alcohol use as a menace to society, tobacco, the health costs of tobacco use. Let's just ban those things. What we're talking about here is, we have a statute that, in my mind, is flawed. We've heard this bill time and again, and it keeps coming back. We have more people killed per registered motorcycle in Nebraska. And I don't want to argue the figures, but it's higher than the states around us, because we require no education. This bill is a compromise. Came out of our committee, the Transportation Committee. It's a compromise. I keep pounding on that. It's a compromise. If you want to put a strict education requirement and finally eyewear, protective eyewear was discussed, that's in the bill. Right now, if somebody is silly enough to go down the road without eyewear on, there's no statute says you have to have it. So we have that added in. The education requirements...after looking through the ABATE manual and so on, this is a comprehensive course, done on...and some of it,