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FLOOR DEBATE

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question that the different groups would advertise to go through Nebraska this year so they can see what they're missing out on by not coming through. I balance that against the fact that if we could get a unbiased statistical analysis of what is going on and what these other states' data mean, not picking out just one here and there, but the fact of the matter is, is that every state, every safety organization, every medical group, every one of these, what are there, 30 or 40 in this state, 30 or 40 other ones national, every one of them has the same message. These terrible, terrible helmets are the number one safety device there is when the accident occurs. The proponents of this like to carefully frame their sentence so they say it has nothing to do with prevention, wearing that helmet. That's absolutely right. But once that accident occurs, every one of these organizations says this is the biggest single device that there is. So I don't know if I can support any of these. Senator Jensen, I'm...have told you privately that I'm not sure that I can support this anymore. What I'm afraid will happen is the same thing as what happened down in the state of Florida. Florida had a bill of \$190,000 for a department in one of the universities in Florida to study this and come up with what the actual statistics were. Their statistics were the same as what every other group said, is that not wearing helmets is the cause for an awful lot of deaths and severe injuries, particularly the brain injuries. The first thing that the proponents of removing the helmets said were it was a biased study and the lady didn't like cyclists. I would argue that she likes them a lot. She wanted to keep them alive and well. One other thing...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JOHNSON: ...that we must remember, and it hasn't been mentioned on this floor to this period of time, we're talking about minors. We're only going to take the helmets off of the adults. What happens when you take them off of the adults? The minors take them off as well. This has, again, been shown nationally. It happens all over. Take the helmets off of the adults; those less than 21 will take them off as well. So it's a very important decision that we're making and, Senator Jensen, I'm obviously against the FA182. I'm not sure I can support the other one anymore either. Thank you very much.