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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Friend.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I've been listening and, you know, I guess off and on, however long we've been having this debate, and I'm trying to shake some of this stuff out and one of the things that's occurred to me, or actually this occurred to me a long time ago, was that there's probably no possible way I would hop on a motorcycle without a helmet on. That said, it's interesting that we've had, I don't know, four or five hours of debate, six hours, whatever we're at...wherever we're at now, about whether...about whether or not helmets save lives. I'm going to assume...I'm just going to say for the sake of this analogy that I'm going to give you, I'm going to assume that they do because we've all had experiences, we've all seen, I think, that that could be...that that is the case. But here's the analogy, and I've used it. I actually used this on Senator Maxwell last year. I've used it a couple times with some of the folks out here on the floor individually. I walk up into that north balcony and I stand right on the edge, up on that marble, and Senator Schrock is standing right next to me, and I said, Senator Schrock, Ed...I call him Ed...let's jump off of this balcony; it's a rush; it's fun; I've done it; let's jump off together. And he said, Mike, you're...you know, I'm...I kill prairie dogs; I don't jump off of...I don't jump off of balconies. And I said, Ed, trust me on this; you'll have a blast; all you have to do is do it once and you'll never go back; you'll, matter of fact, let's do it right now. Senator Schrock says, well, I don't know. All right, Ed, here's a helmet; I'll put one on too; now let's jump off the balcony. And I said, we'll be fine; what could possibly happen? By the way, you have to do a flip before you hit the ground. And Ed looks at me really in a perplexed manner and says, Mike, that's insane; I'd like to have that rush, I'd like to have that feeling, but I want to see my grandkids and I want to kill more prairie dogs. And he says, you take your helmet; I'm walking down; you go ahead and jump. Senator Erdman and others have brought up the idea, and to me it's fact, the inherent...the inherently dangerous part of this whole thing is riding the motorcycle. You give me a helmet and say...with the experience that I have, and say, Mike, go 70 miles an hour up 480 over to