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FLOOR DEBATE

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development package. Which would you rather have, the safest motorcycle drivers in the world, or some of the least safe? I don't know what more you can say. The conclusion is obvious. If I was...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR JOHNSON: ...a judge, this would be a directed verdict. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Baker, on FA182 to AM1289.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I was not going to get involved with this discussion again, but when we start talking about statistics and proponents of the bill not bringing them up, I go back to the hearing and...on this LB 70 and the one statistic that was never rebutted by anyone in the committee, and I asked the question of several opponents to the bill, was how do you account for us? I'm not going to argue specific numbers, but we have the highest fatality rate per 10,000 motorcycle registrations of any state in the Midwest, and we're the only one with a helmet law. And it just haunts as to why that statistic. And you can tweak the numbers a little bit, but we still have the highest rate by far. And I want to answer several questions here. I'm going to ramble a little bit. I am one of those people that brings those injured motorcyclists and drivers to the ER room. I'm an EMT. I carried my pager all weekend. Didn't have any motorcycle calls, thank goodness. But I am one of those people who picks the folks up in the ditches, mangled; tries to get their body parts put back together where we can get them to the ER and then they have the nice sterile environment to work on, in ER. And I was reminded about another motorcycle crash that I worked and it was a severed ankle. Helmets on the driver's (inaudible)...it was a passenger that had a severed ankle cut off by the chain on the motorcycle, and it was cut off just like you took a chain saw. And, luckily, when we got there the ankle was in a bucket of water...or the foot, but it was cut off at the ankle. I think I mentioned one compound fracture of the lower leg, fracture of the lower leg, and I remember that call well because it was a friend that said