

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

April 25, 2005 LB 70

here peruses both the Lincoln and the Omaha papers, plus our local papers, but over the weekend the Lincoln Journal Star had their usual straw poll of the citizens on the street and asking them about repealing the motorcycle helmet law. And there were like six individuals that they asked the question of; five out of the six said no. It's logic that you should have helmets. These are people off the street. They haven't heard all our statistics and all our arguments. And the one person was adamantly for doing away with helmets. But I thought it was interesting. As you look at that thing, many times that is indicative of what the public has to say and what they feel on these issues. And then tragically what else did we hear about this weekend? We heard about a young man who was riding a motorcycle and he was doing it inappropriately, but he was doing it without a helmet. He was breaking the law. He crashed the motorcycle and he's in critical condition with what? Traumatic head trauma. Traumatic head trauma. No helmet. We can talk about education all we want. We've had an opportunity as a body to up or down vote doing that education piece, and those people who so strongly advocate education voted against it. I just think that we have to get this...unbelievably. The statistics show us very clearly that it is not only a lifesaver but a lifesaver for families, a lifesaver for individuals who are traumatically brain injured and who live with these conditions the rest of their life, and their family members also; not to talk at all about the economics of the situation. And I just, Adrian, that you know it looks like a compromise, these two months. I thought, after we had the debate at the end of last week, that they didn't ride to Sturgis except in July, when we had August in Senator Jensen's compromise, but I see now that's when they go. So I guess maybe we could defeat your amendment and go to Senator Jensen's amendment where we have the...give them a month to try it out in August and go to the study committee, and then we actually know whose facts mean what and we can come back to this body and, if that's what we need to do, and make decisions. But I'm for motorcycle helmets and I think we ought to keep them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. We're discussing FA182 to the Jensen amendment to LB 70. Senator Thompson.