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

April 25, 2005 LB 70

morning. It's encouraging. And you'll see that I have filed an amendment to AM1289 that I hope that we can address here today. So I hope that we can move things along so that we can vote the bracket motion down and proceed to a compromise that I...I'll tell you right now that not every member will be happy with it on both sides, on both sides, but it is something that I believe a good faith effort to move forward. We'll still have to come to a cloture vote. That's fine, and I believe that we could do that today and so we can move along. But I've been listening to a lot of the comments, and the training was somewhat mocked by some prior discussion, or in some prior discussions saying that the training is not a panacea. I agree. A helmet is not a panacea. And the training mechanism that wasn't even present in Senator Jensen's amendment is a lot better way to promote safe riding, defensive driving, which is typically necessary on a motorcycle, because the unwary vehicle driver oftentimes doesn't see the motorcycles. But I was reading some research on the prevalence of motorcycles in Iowa with harsh winters compared to the motor...the number of motorcycles in Florida, Iowa actually, all things and considered, even has more motorcycles on the road, and they have some statistics that are better than Nebraska. And I'm not isolating statistics when I say that Iowa's fatality rate is lower, and I will say significantly lower, as I've handed out earlier, than Nebraska; and even more significantly lower than Missouri, which of the neighboring states Missouri is the only one that has as strict a helmet as we have in Nebraska. Now we heard about this long list of opponents to LB 70. Yes, Did they all show up to the hearing? No. I call those "me too" groups. Oh, I'll sign on there. It's like passing a petition with some information. I mean, I think of the Nurses Association. They didn't show up to the hearing but apparently they signed the list of opposition groups to LB 70. I'll you what, it's a lot easier to oppose something passively than to oppose it up front. Now I'm not sure of their exact, like the Nurses Association, what exactly their objective was by not showing up to the hearing and then later opposing it, but I'll try to find that out later. And we heard about a survey. Senator Jensen talked about a survey and how a majority of Nebraskans want to mandate helmets but a minority of Nebraskans want to mandate seat belts. Well, I would argue that we