

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

May 31, 2005

LB 70

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. Right, and I do want to point out to you that Triple A of Nebraska is the organization that describes or compares an unhelmeted rider to that of a drunk driver. That's Triple A of Nebraska, and their person who they send to the hearings and so forth has said that on multiple occasions. I think that's very unfair. I don't even hear that comparison here in the body. But if you're going to rely on Triple A information, I think you need to look at the full picture. There has been this rush to say anything so that the discrediting of LB 70 can take place, and I believe that the supporters of LB 70, including myself, we've done our homework and we've realized that you need to look into the numbers in more ways than one. And quite honestly, I thought there would be a few more, or a bit more sophisticated arguments against LB 70 than there have been so far. And that's why I'm not afraid of a study. I think a study will provide more sophisticated information, and I hope that it is as objective as possible, and I believe that we can arrive at that. Am I out of time, Mr. President? Do I have any more time, Mr. President?

SENATOR CUDABACK: You have about one minute, Senator.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you. So I believe that we need to look at that and really look at perhaps each and every accident. There are not that many fatality accidents in Nebraska, and you can look at the conditions. Would a helmet have made any difference? I mean, it does not take a great deal of training to determine that. Or did they have a helmet on anyway, and it didn't matter? But when you look at Iowa, if you take Iowa's current policy and you take Nebraska's current policy, being at basic opposite ends of the regulation spectrum, Iowa has a lower fatality rate than Nebraska. Right there. Other neighboring states of ours without universal helmet laws have more optimal--that meaning lower--fatality rates. The only one significantly higher than Nebraska is Missouri, and they have, like, I think, 50 percent higher number of deaths than Nebraska.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President.