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

June 1, 2005 LB 70

amendment that was passed yesterday and lay that alongside the green copy, and you're going to see that those two are very much alike. And I heard comments yesterday that we should go back to the green copy. Very much alike, both those, the amendment that was passed yesterday, and the green copy. The big difference is that the amendment passed yesterday said that there would be a secondary offense for two years, and then we'd go back to helmets. The green copy says there's a secondary offense forever. If you're driving a motorcycle with a five-year-old on the back, without a helmet, both of them, secondary offense. Read the bill. Read the bill. Read the green copy. Read the amendment that was passed yesterday. I've been on Health and Human Services Committee, and you have elected me Chairman for the last eight years, seven years. And I've really taken that job seriously. And I felt that it was my job to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of this state as Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee. There is no question, I don't believe, in anybody's mind here, that if you remove the helmets, you're not going to have additional deaths; you're going to have additional head trauma. It is a fact. Now, you can say...you can say that, well, if we only had education. by the way, the green copy does not guarantee education either. For a very small few, it would, but not for the general ridership. So that's a misnomer also out there. But there But there isn't anybody, I don't think, in this body, that really believes, if you take off the helmets permanently, that we're not going to have an increase in deaths, we're going to have an increase in head trauma. And by the way, you are going to have an increase in state costs, because we pick up that in hospitals, we pick up that cost in Medicaid. And it will be there. Now, we don't track that Medicaid--Senator Smith says that -- as closely as we can, but it is there. There isn't a single medical entity in this state that supports repeal of this law. But more than that,...you know, a few years ago, three or four years ago, a senator, who's not here, came around to me and asked if I would sign on to a bill. And he said, you should support this because of your position that you've held. I signed on. Many others did, too. As the bill came forward, we said, wait a minute, that was not what I thought it was. And so I asked to remove my name. And if you've made a commitment in the past, if you've signed on to a bill that is incorrect or