

March 28, 1983

LB 306

cost of not immunizing children. We also can measure the cost of not having safety legislation on the books. Last week I passed out to the legislators the cost to the taxpayers of the state for part of the hospitalization and medical costs for the 544 children who were injured, survived the accident, but were injured in the State of Nebraska last year. We pay a penalty when we do not have the children protected. 90% of all accidents injuries can be prevented by the use of safety seats. A number of you have seen the list of hospitals who are participating in the child restraint program in Nebraska. A number of you have been contacted by PTA members from your district, the Nebraska PTA wishes to go on record in support of LB 306. We feel this would not be an intrusion by the state any more than we feel the requirement to immunize against disease is an intrusion. We feel LB 306 is needed and will be a valuable tool to protect those small Nebraskans who are not yet capable of making decisions concerning their safety. I have in my hand the latest report to the President of the United States relating to mental retardation. Prevention Strategies That Work. Accidents are one of the great causes of mental retardation and the greatest number of accidents involve the automobile which causes more deaths and permanent injuries than all other types of accidents combined. This is particularly helpful when we are talking about the safety of small children. Nebraska Women for Highway Safety support LB 306. When we first began talking about child safety seats in the State of Nebraska, only one state had passed legislation. You have recently passed out on your desk a list of the new laws passed this year. There are 30 states of our 50 states which have already passed child safety seats legislation. Let's have Nebraska be state 31 this year and protect next year those 544 children who were injured and survived. I told a number of you I would not talk about the children who died but there were some and that, too, cost Nebraska taxpayers. We need this safety feature for the State of Nebraska. We need to know that it is impossible for an adult to safety restrain a child in his arms in a crash situation. We need your help this year in advancing LB 306 from General File to E & R Initial.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Dick Peterson.

SENATOR R. PETERSON: Mr. Speaker, and members, I would like to ask Senator Marsh a couple of questions please.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Would you respond, Senator Marsh?

SENATOR MARSH: I would be very pleased to do so.