

be very hard to enforce, and with large families, I think it would be very hard to comply like I feel I could not have complied if it had been in force when my children were little. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Rupp.

SENATOR RUPP: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise to support LB 306. I also was in the committee that heard this bill. The opposition to this bill, and I think the only opposition there could have been to this bill is basically a philosophical one of just another example of big brother looking over our shoulder and demanding this or demanding that. But before we vote on this, I would remind the body that there is very good precedent for something along these lines. In 1959, I believe it was, the State of Nebraska mandated the children in a boat under the age of 12 to be required to wear the Coast Guard certified life preserver. I am certain at that time there was some opposition that said we are going to have an outlay of some dollars here. It is going to cost us several bucks a piece for life preservers. I am sure that there was some people said there will be a law enforcement problem because a conservation officer might be on the bank and the boat might be in the middle of Lake McConaughy and we can think up all kinds of reasons why these things don't work. I have no idea how many lives have been saved in the 24 years that 12 year olds and under have been required to wear life preservers in a boat but I don't think there is any question that there have been some, probably a considerable number. So we have very good precedence here, and if we require life preservers in a boat, why not in a car, and I would urge the advancement of LB 306. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, 1981-82 I was opposed to Senator Marsh's bill, but having served now two full years and going on my third year in Public Health and Welfare and having listened more and more to the testimony I think I can see the value of these seat belts. I get a little weary of hearing about the cost of a seat belt, the cost of training, the cost of this, the cost of that, when nobody ever thinks about human life or human suffering, and I guess that is what finally got to me in the end. I believe that, as Senator Peterson pointed out, it is going to be difficult to enforce this law but I don't know of any law that we have on the books that is easy. I don't think the Highway Patrol catches every speeder every day. I know I have slipped through a few times. But I think that through this bill there will be greater education