

welcome them, please, to their Legislature. Welcome to your Legislature. We will now proceed then with agenda item #8, LB 69, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LE 69 was a bill introduced by Senator Shirley Marsh. It is a bill for an act relating to motor vehicles to require the use of a passenger restraint system and to provide a penalty. The bill was read on January 9. It was referred to the Public Health Committee. The bill was considered by the body on February 4, Mr. President. At that time a portion of the committee amendments were adopted and a portion were defeated. There were amendments offered by Senator DeCamp that were adopted. There was an amendment by Senator Maresh that was adopted, and a second amendment by Senator DeCamp that was adopted. The bill, Mr. President, on February 4 failed to advance.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I ask you to help me save that child. That child's life may be your grandson or your granddaughter or your son or your daughter. During 1979, 46,000 children under the age of 5 were seriously injured in automobile accidents. Over a 1,000 were killed. The great majority of those deaths could have been avoided if proper seat restraints had been used and I underline used because they were available in many of the cars. Less than 10 percent of the children now riding in cars are properly restrained. Twenty-three states...are you listening, twenty-three states have initiated legislative action this year for mandated child automobile restraints and two states have already passed laws dealing with this topic. Using a restraint is a decision that a child cannot make. It is the supervising adult's role. As a public health principle it seems important to determine the risk before withholding their protective vaccines and in this case that protective vaccine is child restraint legislation. Despite well documented observations in many studies on safety for over a decade, the nation's legislators missed the mark with regard to this vital public health target. We talk about safeguarding our water supply. We talk about safeguarding our soils. Human lives are also a future resource for our state. Public health measures say we should protect where we have that power to do so. Your child, when a child is in a boat, is required by state law to wear a life jacket. Your child, to enter school, is required