

want to address you with that this afternoon is because many times, many times a state will have to pick up the cost on these. Sometimes a driver of the car or the owner of the car does not have insurance and he is not able to pick up the cost and so somebody has to pick up these costs and a lot of times it comes back to the state to do this. It is just like when we passed the child restraint law several years ago. I opposed that bill because I didn't think that we ought to tell people they ought to put their children in a child restraint, but when I saw the fiscal impact that the state picked up, I decided that maybe I should support this because the year before we passed this bill it cost the Nebraska taxpayers over \$5 million to pick this up. And so I think this is what we need to analyze here today, that if we pass a seat belt law we're going to have less deaths, we're going to have less injuries due to car accidents and so I think it would just become something of reality and I understand that we could be picking up, this past year, about \$30 million in hospital bills and in other doctor bills and like that. Somebody mentioned that, well, we can't enforce it. Certainly it's going to be tough to enforce and we're not going to catch everybody out there. In fact the way the bill is amended now the law enforcement officers cannot stop a car or cannot stop a driver for not wearing his seat belts, but we have those problems with speed limit. You can be driving down the interstate going 55 miles an hour and most of the cars and all the trucks pass you. We have a hard time enforcing the drunken driving laws and I could go on and on. Let's talk a little bit about cost. We already have the seat belts in our cars so I feel that we just as well be using them and I'm probably as guilty as anybody here. I neglect to put my seat belts on all the time, but I think this would be a reminder. If I was driving down the highway and I met a patrol, I'm sure that if this was law, I would glance down and see whether I had my seat belts on and I'd probably put them on if I didn't have. Another thing that air bags cost, as I understand it, \$500 to \$800 per car. I also understand that air bags are not effective in rear end collisions or from crashes from the side and so I just feel that we ought to go with the seat belt law. I know there is going to be some unhappy people about it, but I guess we're not down here to please everybody. We're down here to do what we think is the best and so, therefore, I would urge you to support the committee amendment as amended.