

and use his arms and he would have been...the bruise would have healed. The difference between an abdominal bruise and a broken spine is the difference between night and day. Under this bill as currently written, as you have approved, that young man's failure to wear that seat belt could result today in a jury returning to him an award of \$10 to compensate him for the abdominal bruise that he would have had if he had worn the seat belt. Senator Hoagland and I, and Senator Beutler and I simply say, wait a minute, that is not fair. That young man should have been able to recover or could have...we want to make certain the law allows him to recover the full injuries that he sus...damages for the full injury that he sustained by falling on that pavement when the other car ran into his car negligently and causing him to go out the windshield and fall on the pavement...

SENATOR LABEDZ: One minute, Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: But, however, if we have to have a mitigation requirement, no more than 5 percent of the damages can be taken away because he failed to wear the seat belt, no more than 5 percent. We think that conforms to what the Department of Transportation is requiring. We think we are simply adopting a rule or a statute which is not a lot different from the way Senator Chambers has caused this body to adopt rules on speeding on the interstate. We, obviously, don't allow people to go more than 55 miles an hour, but when they do, the fine on the interstate is \$10. We are doing the same thing with the seat belt law. We are conforming to the federal requirement but we are not making it extraordinarily painful and wrong for those who do fail to conform. This is a very responsible amendment, the one that Senators Hoagland, Beutler, and I are offering. The one that Senator Chambers is offering, in my view, defeats the purpose of the bill which is to conform to the federal requirement.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Time is up.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Thank you.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Before we go on to the next speaker, it is my extreme pleasure to welcome a very good friend and one of the most effective Senators I have seen in a long time, Senator Maurie Kremer. Please wave your hand. (Applause). Senator Landis, do you wish to speak on the Chambers