

believe that this requires under the Speaker's agenda a 30 minute time limit. So we will begin that the moment you begin to speak, Senator.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, this motion asks that the Legislature pull out of the Public Works Committee a bill that would require all motorcyclists in the State of Nebraska to wear helmets. Now it has been deadlocked in the Public Works Committee since March of last year where there are neither enough votes to kill the bill or enough votes to advance it. I am asking that we pull the bill out of committee today following a brief debate in order to give the full Legislature an opportunity to consider this important issue. Now initially I would like to thank Dr. Manion of St. Joseph's Hospital, Dr. Campbell of the Medical Center, and other interested physicians all around the state who have worked so hard to bring to our attention the grim facts relating to motorcycle accidents where bikers are not wearing helmets that we have experienced in Nebraska in the last eight years. I have introduced this bill basically at the request of the medical community in Nebraska, particularly emergency room personnel including anesthesiologists who treat the traumatic head injury cases, the pathologists who perform the autopsies on bikers who were killed from head injuries, and other medical individuals who have repeatedly asked the Legislature to address this issue and to consider this issue. And I am very grateful for the assistance of physicians around the state and emergency room personnel around the state for their efforts and for their work in assisting the Legislature to understand the real issues and to work through the real issues involved in this legislation. Now as handouts we have passed around indicated, there is overwhelming public support for a measure of this sort, particularly among sensible people who realize and understand how vulnerable motorcyclists are who don't wear helmets and all of the head injuries and the deaths that result...that come as a result of that. The polls show that an overwhelming number of your constituents support this measure because they understand that it is best for all Nebraskans. Now studies show, we have a Department of Transportation study and other studies that we have circulated previously that show that helmets are clearly effective in reducing the incidence and severity of head injuries resulting from motorcycle accidents. Just a couple of examples, unhelmeted riders are twice as likely to