

still don't but I want to tell you what kind of got me to thinking a little bit more about this. Five years ago, a good friend of my son's, his name was Jeff Knowlton. He was 16 years old riding a motorcycle in Platte County, crossed the Loup River bridge, he hits a grease spot on the road, lost control of it. He hit a bridge railing head first, and I, as a volunteer fireman, helped pick up Jeff and he was dead on the scene and the only injury on his body was a soft spot right on top of his head. One year later another friend of my son's, 14 years old, his name was Keith Jenny. The night of his 8th grade graduation took a motorcycle out of the garage, was going to ride it around the section out in the country where he lived, and another kid driving a car illegally pulled off of a farm lane right out in front of him and Keith hit the back of the car, flew up and hit something on the car. Again as a volunteer fireman, I helped pick him up and the only wound on his whole body was just a tiny wound over his left ear. He was also dead on the scene. Now those two incidences got me to thinking a little bit. I choose usually to ignore statistics and we will be buried with stats on this issue like we have already. I don't really put a lot of faith in that because you can do whatever you want to do with statistics and we all know that. But I think if we also stop and think that when a motorcycle hits something and that rider goes flying, what is out there in front to make first contact with whatever? The head, that unprotected head, that skull, that skull we all know in places is about as thick and about as strong as cardboard, and that is just common sense. We don't need statistics to tell us that. That is the first thing that is going to make impact. That is the bumper on the body, so to speak, when they do hit something. So I would like to hear more debate on this. I probably would vote for it if it does get out here to the floor honestly but I think we should all have the chance to hear this issue discussed. I never have and this is my fourth year down here because I am not on the Public Works Committee. Again I am not forcing anyone to wear a helmet because I am not forcing anyone to ride a motorcycle, but in good conscience, I think that in memory to Keith Jenny and to Jeff Knowlton, and I don't intend to be emotional about this, but now that I have the opportunity to discuss this out here on the floor, I have to make those statements into the record because I think it is only common sense and I think if you all think about it, political pressures notwithstanding, we are just casting a vote here for common sense. Thank you.