

way to go and we think this idea of increasing the cigarette tax is a wonderful one, but we think there ought to be money in the peer review process. With that I would simply urge your consideration of readjusting this two-cent cigarette tax to use it in a way which I think would be more productive in the long run and which may actually bring in more federal money. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Lindsay, you're next followed by Senators Bernard-Stevens, Hall, Withem Will, Landis and Schimek. Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Madam President and members. I rise in opposition to the amendment and I think there's a couple of things that have to be said outright at the beginning. One is that we are not doing anything out of the ordinary. The argument is a red herring. We contract with private institutions every single day in this Legislature. We've appropriated already many, many dollars that will go to contracts with private institutions. The argument is simply wrong. It occurs all the time. We have to look a little bit deeper at what we are trying to fund and we are trying to fund cancer research. Now if we fund only one of the two programs you limit the kinds of cancer research that you're going to fund...that you are going to fund in the state. As I mentioned, University of Nebraska Medical Center has a tremendous program in the areas that they do, a tremendous program, bone marrow transplant at the Med Center is just unparalleled, it's just a tremendous program. In the areas that they do bone marrow and lymphoma and gastrointestinal cancer, et cetera, they do a tremendous job but they don't do the focus on some of the other areas that Creighton would do. For example, breast cancer, pancreatic cancer, colon cancer where Creighton does do some of that research that's not getting done to the...not getting done at the med center. It's important and we heard very eloquently from Senator Day at General File the importance of having that type of treatment and research available here in this state so that Nebraskans who are afflicted with a horrible experience of cancer can stay home near their...in their home state, near their loved ones to get treatment and we need to get that research done here in the state if we expect ever to have programs available throughout the state. Those types of...I don't think we want to ignore some of those types of cancer and that is in effect what we will be doing. As far as peer review I think it's...Senator Schimek's statements were absolutely