

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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Price really does make a difference. How many of you can recall, gee, when was it, back in the seventies when the price of coffee just skyrocketed. There are people that I know that gave up coffee at that time, and never did go back to it, never did, because coffee was about 3 bucks a pound at that time, and they said, I'm not going to go there anymore. And so they gave it up, and still to this day are not using it. I just wanted to just read a short letter. We all get them, but this one here is from a constituent, actually he's a student at the med center. And he says, I'm encouraging you to join Senator Landis in supporting LB 505, the tobacco tax increase issue. In medicine we are taught that preservative (sic--preventative) health care is the most effective way to combat any disease. Due to the fact that one in three high school students in Nebraska use tobacco, as a future physician I feel it is necessary to support this measure as it is a great supplement to the continuing practice of preventative care. Furthermore, cigarettes kill more Americans than AIDS, alcohol, car accidents, fires, cocaine, heroine, murders and suicides combined. Undoubtedly a price increase would be a tremendous first step toward curbing this public health epidemic and leading to a healthier Nebraska. I think that says it for me anyway, and that's why I support LB 505 and would encourage the body to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** Senator Price. Senator Bromm. Waives off. Senator Dwite Pedersen.

**SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I'm going to talk to you about something a little different here for a while. And I thought all morning that I would not get involved in the debate, but the more I thought about it and heard the debate, I thought I need to add the part at least so you have something else to consider. I don't believe there's a soul in here, if they could snap their fingers and do away with cigarette smoking, wouldn't do it, because it is a hideous disease, and it has done hideous things to our society. But I want to talk to you about another drug that I think is even more hideous and insidious, is marijuana. We haven't talked about that today. Most of you know that I'm a drug and alcohol counselor, and I work mostly with youth. And I've heard a lot of people, from groups like NORML, who would