

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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nowhere that there is cigarette smoke, which can be hard to deal with sometimes. I miss out on a lot of social activities. I began working in Micro Support for the Department of Revenue in October of 1998. After walking through the entrance to the state building in Lincoln to go to work for only two weeks, I had an asthma attack and had to go to the emergency room, which was due to the exposure to cigarette smoke. I informed personnel in the Department of Revenue and my supervisor of this problem, and that I would try to cover my mouth upon entering the building to avoid breathing the smoke. I felt like the problem was a lot bigger than me. In July, the cafeteria in the state building became "nonsmoke", which was great. I couldn't go down to the cafeteria before, but now more people are standing outside the door smoking. The smoke comes in the hallway on the first floor, especially when the weather is cold or rainy. My job duties include support from...supporting the computers in motor fuels and taxpayers' assistance on the first floor. Due to this exposure to cigarette smoke, my asthma has increased significantly. In December, I got my first breathing machine and have used it extensively. I visited with my doctor just last Tuesday, this letter was sent to me in February and I did ask her permission to read it to you, and he increased my medication even more in an attempt to help me survive the exposure to smoke. One of the medications he added was Prednisone. I don't know if you're familiar with this medication but it is a steroid with some serious side effects. So now I'm on three oral medications, two inhalers and breathing treatments. I feel I'm a valuable employee and my health should not suffer because of the environment I work in. I've been told that there's not enough support to pass LB 1033 that would prohibit smoking within ten feet of the state facility. I believe people have a right to smoke, but I also should have a right not to smoke. I also don't think that most people who smoke have any idea that their smoke could be so harmful to someone else. I'm not the only person with asthma and sensitivity to cigarette smoke, and I think it's time the public becomes aware of this problem and this bill is passed. After all, if I had another disability and needed wheelchair ramps, wide doorways, close parking places, et cetera, they would have been provided by law. But here we're talking about a disease that you can die from and yet there seems to be no protection for us. I think most of you know the change that's happened