

pass down to younger teenagers. On the other hand, the provision would permit 19 and 20 year olds to drink liquor by the drink, that is it would permit them to have a glass of wine or a drink if they are out to dinner with their family. It would permit them to consume liquor at a party at a friend's house, or it would permit them to consume liquor by the drink in a bar or other similarly supervised settings. Now it is the contention of those of us who are supporting this off-sale proposal that it will do as good a job of cutting down teenage abuse and disciplinary problems as will raising the drinking age to 21 across the board. It will do that because it will prevent 19 and 20 year olds from buying alcohol at package stores, taking it out of the store and then passing it on down to younger teenagers. Now secondly, and this is an argument that Senator Dworak will present in more detail shortly when he closes, and that is that the proposal will lessen the incidents of teenage automobile accidents, or at least it will result in fewer teenage automobile accidents than if we raise the drinking age to 21 across the board. Now the reason for that is simple. If you take a look at the map of the state of Nebraska that we have attached to the memorandum that we circulated previously, why you will see that 45 percent of the population of the state of Nebraska lives within one hour from a state, either Iowa or Wyoming, that has a drinking age of 19, and the difficulty with raising the drinking age to 21, or with raising the drinking age to 20 as some people have proposed, is that it will have the tendency to drive people out of the state to Iowa or to Wyoming to buy their liquor or to consume their liquor undergoing the risk of having serious automobile accidents on the way home. Now finally, with respect to the third argument which is often given in favor of raising the drinking age to 21 across the board, why this particular proposal will gradually break 19 and 20 year olds into the responsibility of drinking by permitting them first to consume alcohol by the drink and then later to have the full privileges when they reach the age of 21. Now Senator Dworak and myself and other sponsors of this particular amendment, including Senator Wagner, strongly feel that this is the most sensible approach and that by raising the drinking age in this fashion why we face directly the reasons that are given for raising it to 21 without working nearly the hardship on responsible 19 and 20 year olds, and we have many many responsible 19 and 20 year olds, that raising the drinking age to 21 across the board would create. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.