

states that have them, the people overwhelmingly support them. Over seventy-five percent of the people in those states that have lotteries say we like them and we want to keep them. I was at a conference in Michigan. The excitement on that lottery was just fantastic. I turned on the TV set and they were having a grand prize drawing for \$25,000. I flew into Chicago. They were selling tickets at the airport, not Chicago, excuse me, it was actually at Moline. The point is that lotteries are here to stay. It is not something that is merely unique. They have been run in this country successfully on a steady basis now for about the last seventeen or eighteen years. It is something, as I said, that is a very painless method of raising additional revenue and I think it is something that could be used very beneficially. I would like to spend just a minute or two to anticipate some of the questions and opposition that might come from this bill. People will say, well, we can't support gambling. We think that this is a bad thing. Let me point out that we certainly already have gambling in Nebraska. We have horse racing and we have bingo and running a legal form of gambling I think is far superior than continuing to see the crap shooting, the numbers, the illegal betting on horse races, the football pools which we all know about, they are in every office. I am not only talking about the pools as I am the sheets, the bookie sheets, which you can pick up in any office, probably a number of them right here in this body in different offices. That's a common practice. It is something that is done every day. By implementing a lottery we can reduce and will reduce the amount of illegal gambling that goes on. So for those of you that are concerned about the lottery from the standpoint of a moral or ethical standpoint and say, well, I am opposed to gambling, let me just say that gambling, whether you like it or not, is here to stay and you can put your head in the sand and say, well, I don't like it and I don't want to see it. It is not going to go away. It has been around since the beginning of time. It will be around long after each and every one of us is dead and buried. I think at least that the state can take a portion of this money, can raise additional revenue, can police it when the lottery is handled by the states, there will not be any corruption, there will not be any problem of that nature, and let people who want to gamble gamble in an honest form. One of the things that I have heard most from people in my district, and even across the state, is that we would like to gamble honestly and people would prefer to do that. If given the choice, they would prefer to bet on a lottery, they would prefer to go to the horse race, they would prefer to play bingo than have to place a