

regulations so that I think they will pass the scrutiny of the Attorney General and I hope that that process will be completed soon and we will have applications in to the Department of Health soon and we can begin to fund a few cancer research programs in the State of Nebraska this year and I hope that we would not totally abandon the commitment we have made in this area and I hope that we can retain some of these funds for cancer research in the state this year. The philosophy is exactly the same as the philosophy of LB 129 or similar. We should spend some funds from the cigarette tax directly for the benefit of the people who smoke those cigarettes by providing some research in an area that will eventually hopefully result in fewer deaths in this related to smoking diseases and so forth. Again I would urge you to uphold or to support my amendment as you supported Senator Nichol's amendment a few moments ago.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR VARD JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise in support of Senator Cullan's amendment. I want to talk for just a couple of minutes about cancer in Nebraska. As you know cancer is the second cause of death in the United States. It is the second highest cause of death in the United States. One out of four Nebraskans during their lifetime will have some form of cancer which is a tremendous number of our population who will be affected by a cancer. We have had in our state the Eppley Cancer Institute operate for a number of years doing research but it has always operated on a relatively limited budget. We have cancer researchers at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and at Creighton University Medical Center who for want of funds are not able to fully understand why it is in some counties in this state we have high incidence of cancer of the colon and why it is that in other counties in this state we have very high incidences of lymphoma cancers. Without any question Nebraska has several real hot spots for cancer that need in the interest of our citizenry to be addressed by very knowledgeable researchers. In addition Nebraska is in a minority of states which does not maintain any statewide registry system and that registry system is a way of our keeping tabs on the incidence of cancer in this state and the degree of cancer preventing activities. Let me talk for just a minute about cervical cancer that strikes many, many women. One of the things that was discovered in the 1950s in New York State as a result of their cancer registry system was that if cervical cancer in women was detected at its earliest stage it literally could be eliminated as a cause of death. It could be treated and eliminated as a cause of death. Because of that discovery George Papanicolaou, I think that is his name, developed the Pap smear to be administered by doctors, gynecologists, obstetricians and the like to women so that the first signs of