

they are going to be able to do that. The only way you are going to stop the distribution of these products to our young people is just stop the free distribution of these products, period. That is the way it has got to be done. Now I know that encompasses more than our youth but you are not going to be able to distinguish or enforce or carry out any other mechanism, I think, and if you look at this amendment, you will see why I say that. And I won't go into this particularly, but it does talk about if they just ask you for the age of the purchaser when they send in the coupon that that will constitute an honorable effort to try and check their age. My interpretation of this is it is nothing more than tokenism. So if you really want to get at the problem, you don't want to support that amendment, I feel. Now, you do encompass more than youth in this ban. You encompass everybody and older consenting adults, you would say, well, maybe we ought not to stop their right to get this free product, but the thing you have to keep in mind with smokeless tobacco is it is addictive. What we are doing is we are allowing an addictive and dangerous product to be given to people, as a promotion, with the potential of those people harming their health, potentially losing their lives. That is the health risk involved here. Now that is why they like the free promotions, because if you get the product and you use the product and you don't know about the product, you get hooked on the product and then you buy the product and you get hooked some more, and pretty soon you are using it, and pretty soon some of these people are going to end up with oral cancer, and in some cases, some people are going to die. Nine thousand deaths in this country have resulted from oral cancer on an annual basis. I think we ought not to be in the business of promoting an addictive, dangerous product by free distribution, and that is why I am willing to say, I know we are focusing in on the youth, if we could just target the youth, I would feel better about it because I think adults have the right to make up their own mind, but I can't see how we can get that done and at the same time many adults don't realize the addictive, dangerous nature of this, and I don't feel so bad about stopping the free distribution, because I think in the end it is in the best interest of the state, the public health of the state, and I am willing to support the bill because of that. Now we have seen a lot of testimony in hearings, and you haven't even begun to see from the distribution of materials what this thing can do. We had a hearing a couple of years ago, and Senator Nelson remembers this. We had a slide presentation that had literally people leaving the audience because they were ill from watching