

SENATOR HALL: Well, if you want to do this, you want to correct the problem, you need to adopt the Bernard-Stevens amendment to provide for penalty. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Bernard-Stevens, continued discussion on your amendment, followed by Senators Moore, Landis and Wesely.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. Speaker, members of the body, just a couple of things to reiterate and I can't really say it much better than Senator Hall did. I always enjoy debate sometimes because each side can take little bits and pieces of what the other person says and fit it right into what they wish to do. It is true, that, yes, I was Nebraska teacher of the year, Senator Dierks, and it is also is true that I was in the top four of the country in that period of time as well, and I think the reason I say that is not because I want to pat myself on the back because it simply may mean that they made a poor decision that particular year, but I think what I am trying to get across is that I think I have proven through actions many, many times that the people that are closest to my heart are the children of our state. There is nothing I believe more in than helping children of our state, whether it is to relieve themselves of an addiction to any drug and/or tobacco or alcohol, or to help teenage pregnancies, or to help them in suicidal tendencies, when the pressures seem to be so great, I am there. I want to help them. That is what my amendment does as well. If we vote for LB 48 in its present form, we do nothing but pat ourselves on the back and say, gee, look what we did for our children on stopping smoking and chewing tobacco, but, my friends, the bill will do nothing. The children who are using smokeless tobacco will continue to use it. This bill will not stop it. There will be no sanctions. There will be no penalties. The companies, if this bill passes, will still sell smokeless tobacco to adults, and children will obtain it as they do cigarettes today. Anybody who has been in the school will know that it is against the law for minors to smoke cigarettes, and yet many times in our public schools, which I am opposed to, by the way, we have specific areas set aside so students can smoke. In fact, if you go to any given school, just look across the street in the bushes or wherever there is some type of enclosure they can get out of the wind, and you are going to find girls, young men, young women smoking, and it is against the law. This bill will not stop it. What I