

amendment. The purpose of LB 48 is to keep tobacco products from minors. It does not do that in any way, shape, or form. I have to very much disagree with that. It is aimed at minors, and as the Minnesota law, as adults, too. What does LB 48 do? It actually outlaws one adult from giving a smokeless tobacco product, snuff, chewing to another. As presented, it has nothing to do with minors. A fallacy. ATV ads, second arguments used in committee to support LB 48, ATV ads pushing smokeless tobacco are offensive. There are no TV ads. Do you know why there are no TV ads? Because they are outlawed on the national basis because they are... smokeless tobacco is harmful. That is why they are not on TV. All right, another one, fact, there are no smokeless tobacco products sold anywhere in the United States via vending machines and definitely none sold that way in Nebraska. I don't know about Nebraska, a vending machine, I can't tell you that. Let me show you, I just opened up the tobacco book, Utah is one state that addressed vending machines. Here is another one, New Hampshire, vending machines again, so another fallacy. Anyway to strike the bill, anyway to harm it, and anyway to... we have suffered from this for four straight years. Let me tell you testimony from the American Lung Association, a gentleman here, smokeless tobacco is not a safe alternative to smoking. For three years I chewed tobacco, three years, and yet in that short time, I watched my cheeks balloon and inflammation. My gums recede and bleed and I experienced leukoplakia. That is cancer forming, precancer, leathery white patches inside the mouth into oral cancer in 5 percent of all diagnosed cases. Still today my lower lip hangs at an unnatural slope as a constant reminder of my addiction. An addiction it is, and even as I watched in the mirror, as my face progressively deteriorated, I wrestled with giving up my chew. Senator Wesely and members of the Health and Human Service, it scares me, it scares me to think that if an educated, health conscious person, like myself, can be drawn into the use of these products, then the health of our impressionable youth and other members of our society is at a genuine risk. And that is exactly right. Grand Island High School Band, free smoking, now they have picked up smokeless tobacco. I can give you a little comment from a student from Grand Island High School. Sickening when you walk into a study hall and there is someone spit on the floor and next to your desk, spit all over the floor in the boys bathroom. I personally think it is one of the largest spreaders of communicable diseases. It is hard for me to contain myself. Senator Stevens got a little high-toned in his voice a few