

That is where the concern is. That's what Senator Hall's amendment would do. In some ways it is almost deja vu as we talk about this whole issue, because if you go back to a little bill we debated at length last year dealing with motorcycle helmets, a lot of it with the same arguments. I'm of the opinion you cannot eliminate all risk in society, but I am of the opinion you can do what you can when people are at a young and impressionable age to prevent them from getting bad habits and then when they are of legal age they can make a decision for themselves. I think the Hall amendment strikes at the heart of that. It does not just try and...you know, in some ways the bill, the next step is just overall prohibition of smokeless tobacco, cigarettes and alcohol for that matter. We already had the eighteenth amendment once and it didn't work but I guess I am willing to try what Senator Hall is attempting in his amendment to at least make it perfectly clear that it is illegal to distribute these samples to minors and I would support the Hall amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, I didn't see you in the back of the room. We'll come back to you.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, members, again, I would rise in opposition to the amendment. It only puts in place what is already the law. It's there to make a point, you know, that already you're not supposed to be distributing to the minors, so we understand that. Right now you're not supposed to be distributing to the minors, but what is the problem? The problem is you can't stop it because of the free distribution and the system that they have set up. Until you completely ban the giveaways, you're not going to be able to stop the giveaways to the kids. I think that is really where we're at, and in addition, I know we're just focusing in on the youth and their addiction and what can happen there, but I'm concerned about our older citizens as well, those that are above age and don't recognize perhaps the addictive quality of this substance. I don't feel so bad about the idea of not allowing the free giveaways of these to those people as well. Now I know we're focusing on the youth, that's really the highest priority and I know we all feel that adults should be able to decide for themselves what is best. I agree with that by and large. But we decided on the helmet issue, for instance, that it was in the best interests of the adults to have helmets on motorcycles, we thought that. I think it is in the best interests of adults not to chew tobacco and I think the use of free sampling ends up