

just another way for the tobacco industry, with their millions and millions and millions of dollars, to defeat our kids and that's simply what it does. So I urge you to defeat the Hall amendment and let's proceed with the bill as it is. It's a good bill that has stood the test and there is no other way that we can handle it, so you have to vote your conscience and do as you please. With that, that's all I have to say.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Dierks, please, followed by Senator Bernard-Stevens and then Senator Abboud. Okay, the question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do and the question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We're voting on ceasing debate. Record, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Debate has ceased. Senator Lynch, would you like to close on the Hall amendment, please?

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, this is difficult, there is no doubt about it. However, I think this is one of those emotional issues that you have to have the utmost and deepest respect, that demands that you have the utmost and deepest respect for its introducer such as Senator Dierks and Senator Nelson and others. I have no problem with that at all. What is interesting about it is though, that almost all the dialogue we've heard this morning has to do with youth. We have to protect our youth. What the amendment does is simply indicate and enforce the existing law which says that minors cannot, in fact, be sold this product and, in fact, minors will be responsible for their own actions. I don't know how often as adults we assume we have to be responsible for others and we should in some cases, but how often do we ever think about imposing our will but at the same time saying we'll let you off the hook to those that we impose that regulation on. In this case, we do. We just simply say to kids, who will have the kind of product that has been mentioned and debated now for so long that it's okay if you've got it, we'll let you get away with it, but on the other hand we want to make sure that the law does not specify and provide that, in fact, as minors you should not have this product in your possession. It's way out of proportion at this point in my opinion. The amendment specifies that those people that we would like to protect. It seems to me that based on that, you've heard an awful lot about what does or doesn't exist. It is my understanding, and I stand corrected if I'm