

minors from using tobacco in any form and it is a Class V misdemeanor right now, and that doesn't change within my bill. Right now in the State of Nebraska we have a law against giving samples products to minors and it is a Class III misdemeanor right now. LB 48 does not change that except that it deals with adults because we're not going to let adults do that. My point is, you and I, whether we smoke or not, do not want our youth to be addicted by smokeless tobacco. It is a society's dilemma as students are taught not to go into smoking and yet they walk by a faculty lounge that reeks with smoke; as the Legislature grapples with the problems of tobacco, and yet many of us are on the side or in our offices smoking at that particular time. Teachers and people have seen students that smoke and they do not enforce the laws we have now because society has been unable to grapple with that. The best education, the best we can do for our young people is to educate them, tell them what is happening and one of the real positive things that has come out of this discussion, and hopefully the agreement of my amendment, is we have some young people now that have sent us letters saying, please, support LB 48 and they show "Tuffy Tooth" and they show all the little cartoons they have drawn and that is marvelous. I support it because we are beginning to talk about the issue to our young and form the attitudes in the minds of our young and that is where we will be successful. LB 48 will not change anything in regards to the problem that faces our society in smokeless tobacco and oral cancer. The dentists that have called me have said, please support LB 48 because it will stop our young being addicted and getting cancer. I asked them, have you read the bill? Do you understand the consequences and what we're really talking about, and they say, no, quite honestly I haven't read the bill, but I was told I need to call my senator and this bill would help us stop cancer in young. There has been a lot of lobbying, Senator Dierks, on both sides I suspect. But the real lobby effort is right here, not outside the door. We make the final decisions and I implore to the body, the decision we make today is simply, are we going to allow an industry to advertise or market their products to adults, and also at the same time with my amendment, put stiffer requirements and punishments on those people who are giving those samples illegally to minors, which is the law now, or are we going to simply go with LB 48, pat ourselves on the back, tell ourselves we did something to stop cancer when, in fact, we did nothing at all because, ladies and gentlemen, colleagues, I've been around young people a long time. Passage of LB 48 as it now stands without the Bernard-Stevens amendment,