

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time has expired. Thank you. Any other discussion on the kill motion? Senator Crosby and Senator Wehrbein. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I speak as a person who has been to Joslyn as a child and as an adult not more than a year ago, Senator Chambers. My children and I went there. I took them...we lived in Omaha for a year and we had been there when we lived out in the middle of Nebraska, and we went several times when we lived in Omaha because it was a cheap afternoon and a fulfilling afternoon in many ways for children to be exposed to the wonderful collection that they have there. I feel that I need to speak out here for the arts, and I have this feeling that no one is interested. All they are interested in is whether or not this money is going to be designated to sales tax or not. Let me read to you quickly from the Nebraska Cultural Arts Guide of 1989, Joslyn Art Museum. It has parking available, space for buses. It has food service, accessible to wheelchairs and handicapped, and groups are welcome. When my children, and I want to tell you, when my children and I went there, we didn't have very much money and no one ever made us feel unwelcome, let me tell you. We felt like it was a wonderful place to go and that we were part of the group, and that we were welcome at Joslyn always. Here is the description, one of the nation's best examples of art deco architecture. The building itself, which was opened in 1931 as a gift from the widow of Omaha businessman, George A. Joslyn, the building itself is a gift to Omaha and to the State of Nebraska. It is a tourist attraction, if you want to use that word, tourism. The permanent collection spans ancient times to modern art. They have a seasonal concert series. I have been to the Bagels and Bach that the Omaha Symphony does along with some other things. They have films, lectures, art history, tours, classes. As far as I am concerned, please don't kill this bill, and then I would urge you to vote for it because I feel that art, and I firmly believe art is for everyone. Just to go and stand in that courtyard and look around that building is a fulfilling experience. So if you haven't been there, I'd urge you to go and keep this bill alive because I think it is a statement that the State of Nebraska could say to Joslyn, we want you to keep that art collection. My only regret is that the Great Plains art collection here in Lincoln couldn't afford to have it. I want it there at Joslyn. I don't want it to go out of the state, so let's hang on here and keep 705 going. Thank you.