

aye, opposed nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

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

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Schmit, would you care to close on your motion to bracket?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I would hope that the body will bracket the bill. There has been a number of individuals who have spoken and it is easy to let your feelings run high on this issue. I understand all of us share equally the deep concern about the proliferation of drugs in Nebraska. Let me say that my concern is deeper than most of yours because, for a longer period of time, I have fooled myself by thinking that I have done something substantive by the passage of a large number of bills designed to stop the traffic of drugs in Nebraska and that traffic of drugs has not declined, it has, in fact, increased. Let me tell you that the least innocuous, the least worthy of the bills that we passed in the past 15 years on this floor, and, excuse me, Senator Abboud, had more to say for themselves than LB 592, had more reason for me to believe that they would, in fact, curb the spread of drugs. I believe...and I know you are sincere, I believe that if we are going to address the issue in any way at this session, then we ought to do it by talking to those individuals whose responsibility it is to curb the flow of drugs and that is the law enforcement agencies, and to ask them very specifically, what do you think of this bill? What else would you have us do? What will it cost you to do it? When do you want us to do it and how? Is there anything else we should do? If, in fact, we get solid answers to those questions, then we come back to this body and we lay it on the line and say, this is what it will cost and this is what was recommended. And either we are going to buy the package or we are not going to buy the package. If we buy the package, then the responsibility for stamping out the traffic in drugs shifts once again to where it belongs, the legitimate law enforcement agencies of this state. If, on the other hand, we say, we're going to give you half a load, a fourth of a load, a tenth of a load, then the responsibility remains with us. There are going to be those who will go back to your districts and say, Schmit voted against the bill that would have got tough on drug pushers. Fine. I will invite you to say so. I will challenge you to do so. I will welcome the opportunity to come to your district and debate LB 592 before your people, on your ground and you lay down the rules and I