

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Smith, followed by Senators Wehrbein and Elmer.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I hope that you are aware of what this little simple amendment is going to do. This is definitely not a technical amendment. It is not for one business in Bellevue. What it would do is return us to the position we were in before we introduced this piece of legislation. The intent of the legislation was to finally define what we mean by lottery or lotteries and say that we will allow one type of lottery in a community. The purpose of it also is to prevent the kinds of things that could occur over time with the increasing numbers of communities getting involved with lottery. We could end up with, in fact, casino types of operations in Nebraska. Now, if that is what you want, then you vote for this amendment. But look on page 24, don't believe just me, look on page 24 of your bill, see where he reinstates the former language, and where he strikes all the new language that we put in the bill, on pages 24 and 25. We grandfathered in those contracts that are currently in operation in the bill, and you will find that on page 26. We are allowing, for instance, the contract that is running presently in Bellevue with a keno operation to continue through the time of its contract. We are not trying to stop that. We are not interrupting that contract. What we are doing is allowing that to continue by grandfathering it in. Senator Schmit is offering you this amendment under the pretext that it is for a business in Bell...Bellwood that he is protecting. Bellevue or Bellwood? Bellevue. Bellevue is grandfathered in till the end of its contract, and what we are doing then is we are all on a level playing field. Each community can have the type of...if we ever get to the committee amendments, we will tell you what we have come up with as far as a lottery is concerned, and they can combine with interlocal agreements to expand that lottery from one community into another. We don't want to see this become Nebraska wide open to casino type of gambling operations, and that is the bottom line, and the purpose for the bill. Senator Schmit's amendment will put us right back to that position where that is able to occur in Nebraska. I would ask, very strongly ask, that you do not support this amendment. If you do, what you have done is basically taken the purpose of the bill away.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wehrbein.