

bill would do is prohibit discrimination against such persons in employment, housing, school attendance, and public accommodations. Some people had asked me whether or not if a person were working around food and had the virus or AIDS could they be removed from that job without being in violation of this law. The current law allows any employer who has an employee with a communicable disease to be removed from food areas. So this bill does not change any of that kind of law. If you would glance at some of the handouts that I gave you, you would see the rationale for why the Nebraska Health Department supports this bill, why the representative from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, who is the case manager of the viral syndrome clinic, supports the bill. The Nebraska Nurses Association is in support. The Association of Practitioners and Infection Control is in support along with their members. The Liaison Group of Nebraska Nursing Organizations, with a list at the bottom of the first page and continuing to the top of the second page of the handout that I gave you, are all in support. Then there is testimony from a representative of the Lincoln-Lancaster County AIDS Task Force, and in all of these presentations, you are dealing with the opinions and conclusions of people who have had direct experience with the AIDS problem and people who are afflicted by the disease. They have first-hand knowledge and information about the types of discrimination these people face. They have come to realize that if a person can lose a job for testing positive, most people who might ordinarily take the test if they thought there was a basis, will not do so, because to lose a job in that set of circumstances makes it practically impossible to obtain another. There are hemophiliacs who may have a reason to test for this virus because not many years ago blood was contaminated. They say now through universal testing and screening that is not the case and you don't have to be worried as much about blood transfusions, but there are people who have received the disease as a result of blood transfusions. Having a bill such as this will take away the fear that individuals have of the test, and fear of giving this information to others who are entitled to receive it. The final thing I would like to say before I sit down, then I have an amendment that I am going to offer to the bill, but I wanted you to know in general what it is that I am talking about. There were two people who spoke against the bill, and their names are on the sheet. I am not going to give their names because my intent is not to hold them up to scorn. Everybody is entitled to whatever their opinion is on an issue, but the crux of their testimony, the nub of it, was