

educate myself. Asbestos is not...it is a known carcinogen and there are concerns. We ease up too much and then we have to be concerned of our liability. For example, someone, this four-plex, they can sell this house to someone. They could turn around and find that there was asbestos in the air or that asbestos had been removed, so on and so forth, and then who becomes liable for that. The value of some of those homes may...you can't tell. I do oppose this. I can live with if they have a family member or so on, and I am not unsympathetic to the elderly or someone that poses a problem, but you can loosen up on a bill and, you know, we do have EPA looking down on us, we have federal orders and federal rules and regulations, and you can get so lenient that you have defeated the purpose or you can lose it altogether. And we are just trying to cooperate with the Health Department and with the people involved. I can live with, if they have a son or a daughter or so on, but otherwise you would have no control over, and I will guarantee you the reason that we got into this mess was some of these abatement and asbestos people were taking advantage of the elderly and all of use, everyone of us, even cities. Grand Island is what got me involved in this, how the city got, well, I guess I don't know how I want to explain it but they, certainly, it was mishandled. And, again, by doing this, I don't even know as we could get the cooperation from the Health Department that we now have.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hannibal, please, followed by Senators Withem and Hefner.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I rise to discuss the amendment. This is a big issue for some people and, obviously, it is not a big issue for many of you on the floor, but I would assume most of you have gotten some complaints by homeowners or people in businesses that have had asbestos removal projects with estimates lumped upon them that it became prohibitive in cost because of the asbestos abatement requirements. And Senator Beck brings to us a fairly simply policy decision. Federal government says through the EPA that one to four family homes are exempt from anything to do with asbestos as far as we are concerned. That is what the federal guidelines say. Our law currently says, no, that is not true for our state through our rules and regs, every one to four family home is under the same kinds of criteria that commercial enterprises, power plants, every thing else under our current law. We said that is too restrictive. The Department of Health