

LR 24. It's the first time I voted for a lottery proposal in my 13 years down here, that I can recall. I've been a consistent opponent of lotteries. I have felt that they are a mistake for society to move into, especially state sponsored, such as is being proposed here. I think there are many detrimental aspects of it, as has already been discussed. But let's face the facts. Last fall we had a vote on a proposal on a lottery that initially had overwhelming public support. The public opinion poll showed it would pass two to one, I think it was somewhere around that range. There was a great deal of concern that it would pass. The proposal was one that was not advantageous to the general public. It was one that was certainly not the proposal most of us would like to see for Nebraska to move forward into the area of lottery. Thank goodness the people heard the concerns about that proposal and turned against it and voted it down. But the message, I think, has finally been heard, by some of us, that the people do want some form of lottery in this state. I disagree with that position but, nevertheless, having heard that, last year, I feel an obligation to put on the ballot a proposal that is a reasonable one, not one like last fall's, which I thought was unreasonable, to allow the people a chance to express themselves directly. In my view, if we do take this step, and I hope we will, of putting this on the ballot, it is my intent to work against the proposal. I plan to suggest to people that it is, in fact, a mistake to adopt the lottery, period. But I think that definitive answer needs to be given by the people, not by this body. And I, for one, who have opposed and blocked and been an obstacle to this in the past, do not intend to do so at this time, based on that concern last year. In addition, obviously I'd also like to see that some of the proceeds from this are able to help the individuals from the failed financial institutions, Commonwealth, American Savings, State Securities. That proposal will be offered on Select File. That does make a difference as well. And perhaps, if that amendment fails, my position will change on this proposal and I will not support it advancing. I can't judge at this time how I'll feel, because it is my hope that we will adopt some amendment on Select File to take care of that problem. But, nevertheless, I guess what I'm indicating is the people have expressed to us a desire to act on this issue. I think we ought to give them that opportunity with a well framed piece of legislation in constitutional amendment, and then, however we may feel about the proposal, we can work on it as the vote is being taken. And I continue to feel that lotteries are a mistake, but this is one of those times where I