

buy alcohol at Safeway and I have a young minor sacking who cannot handle the merchandise because it's alcohol and he'd have to be 18 years or older. So what do they do? They'll call one of the merchants, they'll call one of the other clerks that is an adult and they will allow that adult then to sack and carry at some point the alcoholic beverage. This would be no different. If in fact Senator Hall is correct, and there would be a...I'm at a 7-Eleven and you're right, maybe young kids will not be able to stock the shelves of cigarette products and to me that is not a bad message to send, that, no, we're not even going to let you near that product if the case may be because there's some problems there, that when you get to be an adult, you can make those decisions for yourselves. That's what I liked about Senator Baack's 577. Basically it says that we're going to do everything we can to stop the minor from using the product, but when they get to be an adult, the decision is theirs, the decision is theirs. So I would disagree. I understand Senator Hall's argument. I don't agree with the argument wholeheartedly and I think the amendment is a good amendment and would go a long way to do what the Legislature has said it always wanted to do and that is to do something to help us work with young kids that are getting addicted to tobacco products, specifically smokeless tobacco. And again, I would urge the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Is there anyone else who wishes to speak to this amendment? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Bernard-Stevens?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Very, very briefly. A yes vote on this amendment would mean that it would be against the law for minors to possess tobacco products. A yes vote makes it against the law for minors to possess. The law currently now makes it illegal for them to purchase, makes it illegal for them to use, but it is not illegal for them to possess. This closes that loophole and says they can't possess it. That's what the amendment does and again I urge passage of the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. We will now vote on the amendment to LB 577. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Have you all voted on the Bernard-Stevens amendment? Have you all voted? Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: We'll have to have a call of the house