

we're...it has expanded greatly in the United States and perhaps I've read about in other countries in the world. So I would like to offer this amendment to return to Select File to strike this amendment as printed in Journal page 2082.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I stand to oppose, on behalf of Senator Haberman who we all know can't be here today, but I'm going to try to serve in his stead on this issue, and I'm going to oppose Senator Wehrbein's amendment and I'm going to explain to you the reasons why. First of all, the reason that I think there was a concern that was expressed on Final Reading when the bill came up the last time was because of a letter that had been sent to our offices on the 13th of May and then another one on the 14th of May. And regarding the one on the 13th, I don't know if you still have those in your files or not, but when I read the story here, the first thing that came to my mind was because what this is saying, in effect, to us is if these kids play bingo they're going to become addicted to gambling. And I would just ask you, in your minds, to remember the days of your childhood and how...if you ever played bingo. I know we did. I went to a rural school. I know I'm different than a lot of the people in here but I did go to a rural school and we played bingo as a pastime. It was something that we did during recesses, particularly during the winter months of the year. I can tell you, you all know in here that I'm not addicted to gambling. So I think that that argument in this letter, I mean, if you talk about someone who is going to be allowed to play bingo or be present at a bingo occasion with his parents once a year at a county fair, I don't think that child will become addicted to gambling. The second letter is the one that deals with a statement which is written in bold print and which says, Nebraska, if LB 427 is passed, will be the first state in these United States to break the barrier to permit any legalized form of gambling for those 18 years and younger. Now, I'm going to have you look at something that was just passed out to you on the floor. The title of it says, minimum age requirements for bingo, and then it lists states. And what I have done is put check marks beside three of the sections here which deal with this. Section...the first check mark says, 18, unless accompanied by an adult, and it names all of these states. The next one down with a check mark says, no age restriction in state statutes, and it includes two states that are right