

in a form that can pass. I urge the body to advance it and pass it into law.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Madam President, and members of the body, I would like to thank Senator Moore for his support for advancing the bill as amended. I do think that the bill as is will...will be positive. I would have preferred to have it another way but I certainly think that it will be positive. I would like to just recap for you a little bit so that everybody understands what the bill is. The bill, as it has been amended by the committee amendments and by the Moore amendment, simply outlaws cigarette vending machines except in places with liquor licenses and places which are not open to the general public, such as offices, factories, and so forth. The bill also restricts...or does not restrict a city or a county from establishing a more...a stricter ordinance so that if the City of Lincoln or the City of Omaha, for instance, wanted to enact an ordinance which said that they shall not be bars or restaurants with liquor licenses, they could do so. So I guess that I...I am certainly happier with this bill than with no bill. I would also like to go back a little bit and talk about some of the statistics that we have and...and talk about why we need this bill. Twenty-two percent of 13-year-old smokers use the machines often. This is according to the American Lung Association. They also say that 80 percent of the population supports the ban on cigarette vending machines. In Lancaster County, the banning of tobacco vending machines is one of the top health objectives developed by over 300 citizens with the Lancaster County Health Department. We do know that cigarettes kill. They kill more Nebraskans than any other product or drug known. Over 2,000 Nebraskans were killed in 1990. Cigarettes are not a legal consumer product in Nebraska. Cigarettes are an illegal drug to sell to minors and an illegal drug to use in most public places, with the Clean Air Act. Adult smokers would not be inconvenienced without vending machines. Cigarettes are sold over the counter 24 hours a day, in many places. As Senator Bohlke said earlier, alcohol is not sold through vending machines because access to minors would be too easy. The same should apply to cigarettes. I guess that I would ask you to move this bill and I would...I would like to thank Senator Moore once again for his support for moving it forward. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Chambers.