

political statement, but I have real concerns about this language being placed in our statutes. The language is, the Legislature further finds that the growing number of minors who start smoking is staggering, and even more abhorrent are the ages at which such children begin this deadly habit. I question whether placing that type of editorial language in our statutes is good practice. It may not be st...hopefully, it's not going to be staggering five years from now, ten years from now. Hopefully, through our education efforts, that we will not have large numbers of minors beginning smoking. And having the language in there that it is staggering, ten years from now, when it may not be, I think is inappropriate. Using words like abhorrent and deadly habit, although we may think that they are, and I see Senator Chambers' light is on, and I assume his statement will be that we ought to use clear language when clear language is appropriate. But I question whether...whether this is appropriate language to be placed into our statutes. It is...I know this purpose, finding a legis...a declaration of legislative findings is an important part of our legislative process when we establish a new program. It is important that we do state clearly why we are establishing new programs. I just question whether language that is more appropriate for the editorial pages of newspapers ought to be placed into our...into our statutes. I think what I'd like to do with this mo...I do not want to...to damage the bill, and it is my fault, because I did not discover this language earlier, so I do not want to impair the passage of the bill. But I'd be interested in hearing Senator Chambers' remarks, maybe somebody else's remarks, about whether or not this is a good practice to have this type of language in our statutes, that is so blatantly editorial in nature.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body. I...I rise to say that I think Senator Withem has made a point. I'm not sure that I...I agree that this is inappropriate. But when he talks about the fact that will it still be appropriate ten years from now, he does make a point. I guess I...I think that it's true that the number is staggering. I think it's true that it's abhorrent that the ages at which children are beginning this deadly habit. But as I'm flipping through other bills here, and I tried to do that after Senator Withem brought this to my attention, I haven't found like editorial language in any other bill. And I guess, Senator Chambers, I'm going