

has a great magnitude. That magnitude includes the potential litigation and lawsuits. It includes the cost to the art work in this and other buildings that is currently being damaged, and I will address that in more detail. In our own CDP, we currently do not allow smoking because we're concerned about the damage to our computer equipment. I submit that we should at least be as equally concerned about the lungs of ourselves, our visitors, the children that come into this building as we are about our computer equipment, and would ask that you vote against this amendment because it basically says we don't care about health in any place other than our state vehicles. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Madam President and members, I rise in opposition to the Bohlke amendment. It basically guts the bill. It takes away the provisions that ban the smoking in buildings, keeps them for cars. I'm sorry, that's not good enough. We're not exactly breaking new ground here. Many state buildings already ban smoking, the university campuses and a number of areas have already taken this step. It's not like this Legislature is taking the lead on the issue. In a lot of ways, we're just following with what already has been done. We have slowly but surely limited the areas in which smokers can smoke. There continues to be a problem and the final step in terms of taking care of the problem is with this piece of legislation. It's not like we're going to break ground that anybody is surprised at or it's unexpected. A number of private businesses ban smoking and have for years in the State of Nebraska. So I don't know whatever promise Senator Bohlke seems to think there is but I...that was just something between us in terms of the Chamber and in terms of the larger issue, the larger policy out there, there's no such promise, no such change that anybody should be surprised about. The step to ban smoking in public areas has been taken already in a number of businesses, in a number of state buildings, number of campuses and we need to just get the job moving further along, even with the exemptions, there are a number of exemptions in the bill. But, clearly, this is another step forward along the path that ultimately will allow for people to be able to breathe clean air.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Landis, your light is next, followed by Senators Schimek, Witek and