

these would be set down next year, but it is just like bars, grocery stores, or anything else, if you have a flood in the market, competition takes care of that. I would imagine you'd probably end up with three. It all depends upon how it's set, but we can't do that until the people decide whether they want to expand or not, and it is my feeling that they need...they need this vote. They have to know what's best for them. If it's wrong, then the people did vote it in themselves. Thank you very much for the time.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. I have not spoken on the issue prior to this and I won't speak again. I think everybody has a right and opportunity to express themselves on this very important issue, and we've heard from a number of people and their concerns about the gambling issue. I, too, rise in opposition to LR 43CA and in support of Senator Chambers' bracket motion. I have, since the moment I came to the Legislature in 1979, been opposed to gambling and I have seen the evolution over the 18 years of the issue. I remember when I was first elected and the lottery was first proposed back in 1979 how...how pressure was applied to try to get individuals to support that measure. I also saw, a few years later, how that issue again emerged in the early 1980s and Commonwealth depositors were held hostage by those who promoted gambling to try to leverage support for a lottery in the state of Nebraska, and I thought at the time what a mean-spirited thing to do to take individuals as vulnerable and hurt as bad as Commonwealth depositors and use them as a pawn in an effort to make a dollar, and that soured me even further that somebody who would do that would do anything to make a dollar. So in my view, the gambling issue deals with individuals that I think are not of the highest stature, do not bring to us the sort of morals and perspective that I think this state has thrived on and runs counter to the work ethic. I think the moral issues involved in here have certainly generated strong opposition from the religious community in the state of Nebraska, but it is not to say that individuals who gamble are immoral. It is to say that the promotion of gambling by the state is an immoral act, in my view. I think the economic issue is the one that drives me as much or more than any other on the gambling issue, and there we find that money spent on gambling diverts resources from other more productive uses in our