

gambling? I hear about all the money that's going out of the state, but if we put gambling in here, how many dollars is the state actually going to get to spend themselves? I guess I just question a lot of these figures that are being thrown around here, and I realize I don't like to see money going out of the state either. I think we should protect our state, but I think there's a lot of things that's happened over the years, and, again, with the seat belts, and another thing I relate to that, there's people on this floor that voted for that particular issue, and I see them in vehicles, they are not wearing their seat belt. I didn't support it. I don't support it, although I wear mine probably 99 percent of the time because I think people should wear it. But with that, thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Schmitt. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Madam President, members of the body, I have really listened closely during the two mornings that we've had discussion on LR 43CA. I have listened because I wanted to take the time that we did not take last year, I wanted to be fair about this. Even though my district opposes expanded gambling, I have had so much constituent comment about it. I think many of you received a copy of a letter from my district from one of the neighborhood associations that indicated that 85 percent of the people in my district that were surveyed by this neighborhood group said that they opposed gambling. So I have a strong reason from a constituency point of view to leaning one way on this bill, but I did want to be fair, and I wanted to hear the arguments on the other side. I spent a lot of time on the floor listening to people because I do believe that we need to listen to the arguments that take place. What I have been waiting for are the arguments that are very compelling about why we should do this, that...I mean, we've had...we've had admission that there are social costs, and I agree with Senator Jensen that I believe that the social costs are greater for casinos and for slot machines than they are for some of the kinds of gambling that we have. There was the story on ETV this weekend about the compulsive gambling program that we fund through lottery money, and the number of people who need help through that are much greater for casino gambling and slot machine gambling than for some of the other kinds of gambling. But I have been really listening to find some argument that I find compelling, and the only argument that I really heard is that other states are doing this and our dollars are going to