

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Next speaker, Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I rise to...I have a few points here I have to, I just feel compelled to make. One, what standard are we using when we're talking about gambling? I keep on hearing that people are losing money gambling, is this a surprise? I mean you could take that same argument and say that every Saturday in the fall, Nebraskans lose \$2 million at the University of Nebraska Memorial Stadium. Of course people lose gambling, it's an adult form of entertainment. I'm also surprised at some of these senators that are most morally passionate about, about resisting this at all costs, any expansion whatsoever. And then when asked from the floor they say, well, but we don't want to repeal the gambling we have now. So the gambling that we have now is moral, the gambling that we don't have is immoral. Okay. I think, you know, I hope that makes sense to me some day. Another thing, the last thing I said on the debate last week was talking about the charities. I got a call last night from someone from an activist organization in Omaha, and they were very upset about LR 43CA and we started talking about it. We talked about it for about 30 minutes and by the end of the conversation, she volunteered to work on my reelection campaign. Because everyone's talking about casinos. Why aren't we talking about electronic devices to help the charities out? This weekend I spoke Sunday at the Douglas County Legion meeting, and we had all the Legion clubs. It was in one of my good friend's from west Omaha's brand new Legion Club that cost \$2.5 million, of which they still owe money. She's not listening now. But how are they going to pay that debt in her district? It's through pickles. Now are we going to allow our charities to collapse? Are we going to allow more and more revenue to leave the state that could be going to our charities here in Nebraska? We regulate, we tax, and we get the money to stay in Nebraska for the charities. Now that hasn't been talked about. There's been outside forces coming in here for gambling, because they want to push casinos. There's outside forces coming in, I think from Iowa coming here, to try to stop the gambling. But we're forgetting about any...what LR 43CA does. If we want any expansion whatsoever we need to pass this legislation so we can at least help the charities out that are getting clobbered by what's going on in our neighboring states. And I'm surprised, there is a mood, there's a passion against gambling. And a lot