

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 4, 1999

LR 29

would agree, with Senator Jensen and Senator Wehrbein, that this is a very important issue. I can't figure out why there would be anybody in this body that would not vote for this. And I'm not certain that it requires a great deal of discussion, that we all should be concerned that we keep the resources that we have put into service of...of people who have...have had tobacco-related incidence of illness, and keep it so that we can use it for our health care in the state of Nebraska. As one of the other senators said to me, how could you wear a Nebraska T-shirt and vote against this? Thank you.

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

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, Senator Jensen, if I could ask you a few questions, I would be interested in knowing more about this.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Jensen, will you yield for a question?

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I've not read the tobacco settlement agreements. I've seen little things in the paper here and there. Does the settlement require the state of Nebraska to change any of its statutes, or to not do anything that this Legislature might otherwise choose to do?

SENATOR JENSEN: No, it really does not.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR JENSEN: The only thing that needs to be done...we did address a bill here, which talks about the master settlement agreement that is in the process. And as that proceeds, there's nothing more that we need to do. Eighty states have...or, not 80 states, 80 percent of the states have already bought into this. The only thing is there are some suits in some of the major populous states, California, New York, I believe Florida, maybe Texas, that...and it's been brought by maybe zealots who want more, who think that there should be more dollars. That will have to go through a process through the courts. And when that's determined, I would say in about 18 months, the money