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PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. On the amendment to the committee amendments, Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEFER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I think one thing this body has to remember is that it's currently against the law for any teenager to purchase or consume alcohol in this state. I think people think we're stepping...we're opening up the law and we're going to have a new law. We're not doing that. If you look at...all we're trying to do is to tighten up the language in this...this current amendment by Senator Chambers. We thought if we tightened it up enough that it would help the teenagers, and then he wants to open it up. Now if that's what he wants to do, that's okay, but, actually, he's letting more minors be charged by taking out what he wants to take out than he is by leaving it in there. And so it was our attempt to make it so that we didn't have so many minors, wouldn't be so...they wouldn't be charged so easy. If you take a look at what I passed out to you, what the other states are doing. Many of the other states put the teenagers in jail, and we didn't think that was the right thing to do. We didn't think that they deserved to be in jail just because they were caught with minor in possession. But driver's license was something that all of these surrounding states, in fact 33 states have something like this, and it has helped. Are we going to stop teenage drinking? No, I said that earlier. It's not...we're not attempting to do that. But if we can save one life in this state, the bill would be worth it, and that's all we're attempting to do. I think the teenager drinking has been around since the beginning of time and we're not going to stop that. We're just trying to make it so that we can save lives, save some of these terrible accidents that happen in this state, and make it so that the teenager takes some responsibility for what they are actually doing out there. It's currently against the law in this state to have alcohol if you're a teenager, and we're not changing that. We're just saying take some responsibility. We're not going to put you into jail. We're going to take away just your driver's license for six months, and maybe you will learn then that you don't do this. Now if they want to go through the judge, they can get it down to 90 days, which to me is very easy. I think that's a very soft penalty, to say now I think you're going to lose your license