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LB 427

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. I was one in the committee did not vote to advance this bill and that doesn't mean I can't be convinced to vote for it on the floor, but at this point I have some...some real concerns about it. In Nebraska, we have lacked economic development and have spent a lot of money on economic development, trying to get more businesses to come to the state of Nebraska. One of the biggest businesses we have in the state of Nebraska is telemarketing. We've got thousands of people hired in this business in Omaha alone, and I think we'd be sending a bad message by passing a law saying that we don't endorse telemarketing and that's what I think this bill would do. I also believe that it's kind of a slippery slope and I'm going to be listening to this and to what Senator Beutler has to say about it. But what is telemarketing? You know, is it the people who call from a, quote, telemarketing company? But how about the people who sell Avon, Tupperware, Amway, Longaberger, Watkins, Mary Kay? They call all the time. Isn't that telemarketing? Are they asking for orders? And I, too, have been disturbed in my evenings, my weekends, the little time I get at home with having the phone call, but there are systems set up already to take care of that. You can have an unlisted number, which I understand could cost. You can put on answering systems where you hear what's coming in and decide whether or not you want to answer it. There's lots of different things that can be done. Senator Beutler has already mentioned that there are some companies that, once you tell...that you...by federal law, I think is what he said, you can tell a company, don't call me back, and they put you on the list not to call back, even if there's more than one company, you take...pick one off at a time. I'm not so sure that this is something we can legislate, and at this point I will not be supporting the bill for those reasons and, hopefully, maybe will be some answers in some of that. But telemarketing does go beyond just the big companies like Idelman, the companies of the Oriental Trading Post and them...them people who do it for hire and those who sell for themselves. But if Oriental Trading Post, for