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SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: (Visitors introduced.) Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and fellow senators. I have not taken a large part in these excise tax issues in the past, other than as they might affect the General Fund budget or something like that. So it might be a little surprising that I stand to speak. Senator Landis opened with some grave remarks about life and death, and I have a lot of respect for my esteemed colleague, my rowmate here as he is. But I have to...I have to try to put this in perspective, I think. A lot of what he says is certainly not wrong. But yesterday I think Senator Byars had pretty much irrefutable evidence that requiring people to wear seatbelts would save lives. And those same arguments could be made with respect to that bill. But for each of our own personal reasons, we chose not to go forward with that bill, whether it be fear of indiscretionary stops, or whether it be personal freedom arguments, or imposing that upon our citizens, whatever our reasons are, we chose, almost unanimously, to let that bill set aside. I would say to you that, despite Senator Landis' arguments about life and death, there are other very, very important points for us to consider, if we take these steps that he's asking us to take today. I don't...I know of very few other taxes more regressive than this tax. We're out to encourage young people not to smoke for health reasons and because of cancer. And I...I offered a resolution today which will be heard on the floor later this week with respect to cancer. I have a very personal interest in trying to do whatever we can to reduce cancer. I'm not taking his suggestion, Senator Landis' suggestion lightly, nor is it easy for me to oppose this. But I have decided that it's the right thing to do. It's the right thing to do because this isn't, in my view, the right way to encourage young people of the right course of action to take. I'm a firm believer in education, and I'm a firm believer that with the right kind of education that the people that want to make the right choices will make the right choices, and I can say that about seatbelts as well. And I'm going to do everything I can in that issue with respect to education. When my kids were in elementary school, I was a fairly frequent pipe smoker. It seemed to be the thing to do when I was trying to write briefs or when I had time alone in my office. My kids were going through a pretty significant