

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

April 13, 1999 LB 505

favor. If we can just stop kids from starting, we need to reduce smoking as much as we can without reducing the right to. It is okay to raise the price. I support the increase and I'm a smoker. And I think personally and privately I think that's a way a lot of smokers feel, you know. They don't like their addiction. In fact, I was in a meeting this morning in which they said about 70 percent of all smokers wish that they could quit. And we do know that not only does this raise in price have an impact on children, and that's who we're really targeting here, but it does reduce the amount of consumption among adults. But, Senator Landis, I have a couple of questions about your...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...amendment. And I guess I need you to answer, if you would.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Landis, will you respond?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: If we take your amendment here, it's a 30 cent increase instead of a 64 cent increase,...

SENATOR LANDIS: Sixty-six cents, right.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...or 66, so we're talking a 10 percent increase rather than a, what, 20 percent increase,...

SENATOR LANDIS: Right.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...approximately. What impact will that decision have on the number of kids that we keep from smoking?

SENATOR LANDIS: In fact, there are more examples of the 10 percent increase than the 20 percent increase to youths. And to the best of our ability, estimate from the Center of Disease Control, from the National Academy of Sciences, from the consumption patterns in Oregon, Alaska, Hawaii and Canada, from an MIT study, what you'll have basically is a reduction of teen smoking, consumption and prevalence,...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.