

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

April 13, 1999 LB 505

but not for kids, not for kids. Personal freedom is an argument that works for adults, but personal freedom of being 13 and buying cigarettes is different. Being 13 and having the Joe Camel ads...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...aimed at you, being 13 and having the price arrangements from tobacco companies to retailers to get their tobacco close to the door so it's easily stolen is not personal freedom. The personal freedom argument works when you're an adult, but this is a business that starts with kids who do not have the right to contract, who do not have the judgment to be subject to a criminal code or a civil contract. These are done by kids of relatively tender years who are encouraged by advertising and by the public culture to begin, and if we want to attack that problem we have to use the most effective way. What is the most effective way? Education? Some education works. Enforcement? Some education...some enforcement works. But the national study of Foundation of Sciences tells us, as one of two...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...sources. I guess I'll renew my light so I can tell you this source.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. I rise to support the amendment, somewhat reluctantly. Actually, I'm going to second a lot of the arguments that Senator Redfield made. I find I'm in close agreement with her, which probably should serve as warning to her that she needs to examine her thought processes. I think a number of very relevant points have been made. One concerns the aim of the bill. We're attempting to limit the use of a harmful product, but legal product, to a target group. Is that a reasonable objective for a legislative effort? I think a valid question raised. Should you use a tax at all to prohibit the consumption or limit the consumption of a legal product? There's also been the question raised about the interference in