

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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some money to the Highway Patrol for the purpose of getting after teen smoking, illegal teen smoking. Don't worry. Just vote for LB 505 and the money will be there. Senator Beutler has put his finger on exactly the place in this bill where we'll do exactly what it is that you want to do in the bill that the General Affairs Committee has introduced, and then that's to get more enforcement going for illegal smoking. Senator Aguilar's maiden speech, which I hope people had a chance to listen to because I thought it was terrific and directly on point and filled with his personal conviction and the fact that he's been there and shared with us what he knows in his interaction with young people, highlights the fact that it is the critical juncture of not starting, not starting, that's important. And one of the effects of raising prices is to place this starting process out of the reach or of the desire of young people. Now it'd be helpful to get some more enforcement. One of the things about border bleeding, there may be some border bleeding, but you've got to get into a car to drive across a border. When you're 14, which is when you start smoking, you don't get into a car to cross the border, so that the border bleeding problem is the problem for an adult smoker. But that border is in fact a very serious inhibitor for a kid who's 13 or 14, and that's where this advertising, that's where these machinations are aimed at--to get kids in their teenage years. I think the second reason why they don't aim their smoking advertisements at the rest of us is by the time you're 30 you've already figured out it's a really stupid thing to do and it won't work. Nobody starts smoking in their thirties and forties. Doesn't happen. You've got to catch kids when they're young, when they would make this kind of a decision. Senator Aguilar is quite right. He said it's a...he said it's a lifesaving effort that I'm involved with. The statistics prove that. One in three smokers dies of a smoking-related illness and more than that number have some kind of life-shortening effect, or at least as part of the whole mix of their ultimate mortality. One in three smokers dies of smoking-related illness. There were now, since last year to this year, 6,000 new children smokers in this state. By the end of the year, there will be 8,000 new child smokers in this state.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.