

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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who enforce the law in Nebraska that when this passed, in 1979, it was not a problem; that most restaurants were willing to comply; that it has never been a significant problem for them to set aside a nonsmoking area.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Does that answer your question?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Hartnett, are you through with your...Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Senator Cudaback, I rise to oppose LB 750. Basically, Senator Smith had some of the same ideas. We have smoke-free restaurants in Omaha. I'm not sure if Senator Thompson has been able to get a list or not, but they are indeed smoke-free restaurants in Omaha, Nebraska, so I'm not sure where the argument comes in where any restaurant you go into is going to be inundated with smoke. There are smoke-free restaurants. I would...you know, again, how much do we need to regulate? Is not having the choice of going to a smoke-free restaurant, a restaurant that has a nonsmoking area, you have these choices. The consumers in the state of Nebraska, at least in Omaha, I'm not sure about every town and I'm not going to comment on that, but in Omaha you have the choice. So why does the state need to come in and regulate? There was a concern about health regarding cardiovascular, the cholesterol and so forth in Omaha, and at least in Omaha I'm speaking from experience there, restaurants started responding to people's concern about their health, regarding what they eat, by putting on their menu "a fare of the heart". You might see them, if you go to Omaha, there's a little heart or a little...there's a little symbol on the menu that says this is good because it's low cholesterol, et cetera. So the retail industry responded to the consumers by saying we are going to put forward dishes that are healthy for you, because before there was a concern that, well, we didn't know what type of grease it was fried in, was it lard, was it safflower oil, was it sunflower, I mean there were a lot of questions about that. And the restaurant industry said we're going to have indications on our menu which are heart-friendly dishes to consume. And the people responded. Obviously, it's a positive thing because it's been going on for years now. So the