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body. We are on the amendment and I probably will not be supporting this amendment as I do agree with Senator Chambers that it is not crafted in the best manner. This is the first time that I've spoken on this issue although it has been before us for actually years, this, whether we should look at expanded gambling. I think we do have the responsibility. As senators we were elected to represent our constituents. I come from a district that is very conservative and I think I know the pulse of what those people are feeling. So I will be opposing any initiative, any constitutional amendment to change it and to allowing expanded gambling in this state. I thought it was interesting, Senator Beutler said, well, we need more time. How much more time do we need? Last year we spent weeks on this issue. I find that hard to believe that we need more time to discuss this issue. I do want to share with you that I found an article that related back to 1996 on a casino-related ballot issue that was before the Legislature. Forty Nebraska economists signed a statement opposing the establishment of such gambling in the state. They said the additional direct and indirect costs from expanded gambling are likely to far outweigh any of the additional direct and indirect benefits for the state, as a whole. I think many people think that expanded gambling is really going to be the panacea to our budget problems, that it's going to be the jackpot, that it's really going to solve the extreme crisis that we are experiencing. I think we all know, and it's been stated before, that there are many social costs involved. For every dollar received, we end up actually spending two to three dollars in social welfare, through increased crime, law enforcement, courts, welfare. We are all complaining about those additional costs in Medicaid. We talked about yesterday our local businesses losing not only income but also jobs. I thought it was interesting also that the vast majority of gambling revenues come from those who can least afford to lose the money. Eighty percent of gambling revenues are generated from 20 percent of the population, and that 20 percent of the population is primarily composed of the elderly and low- and middle-income people. There are many issues to be resolved yet. I believe that we have a choice in Nebraska. We can either approve casino gambling and promote the idea that Nebraskans can make money without working for it, or we can come up with some innovative solutions that reward hard