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want expanded gambling, restricted gambling, or kid ourselves into thinking that we're going to have no gambling?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Johnson. I know it's late in the week and late in the hour, but it gets a little noisy at times here, so try to hold your conversation down, if possible. Thank you. Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY. Thank you, Mr. President. Members, I was on the committee. I'm a cosponsor of the bill. I support the amendment and support the resolution to put this on the ballot. One of the points that we heard in that long hearing that we had on gambling with the strong proponents and strong opponents, right at the end I actually learned some stuff. On some of those long hearings you don't learn that much. But in talking with the Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling, Jerry Bauerkamper, the point that he made is that we need to take care of our compulsive gamblers, problem gamblers in the state, and we all understand that. We have funds that go to that from the lottery now. The point that he made, though, is we have a certain percentage, whether it's one to five, he used the number of three percent, he said that number is here no matter what we do. If we have no legal gambling at all, which we do in the state now, then there will be sports book at a bar or they'll be some going to some other state. But we do have a lot of avenues to gamble right now. We have offtrack or simulcast betting at tracks. We have keno. We have a legal lottery and other things here in Nebraska, and then also we have maybe 80 percent of our population within an hour drive of a casino in another state. We have that problem. We have that one to five, maybe three percent of the population now that do have a problem, and we don't have the funds to treat those problem gamblers. Now that's not to say that if we have more gambling in the state we won't gamble more dollars, because I want to make sure we all understand that we will do that. We might gamble more dollars, but I don't know whether we will effect more problem gambling. I don't know if we'll generate more people that are affected in a negative way. Ten years ago I was in a totally different position than I am now. I was pretty antigambling when we first initiated the lottery and the expansion of keno and pickles and things like that. I have worked against those proposals. But I