

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

April 2, 2003 LR 11

the most dangerous way that it could possibly be addressed. The people that have the money that are going to draw and hire circulators are going to have no end to the money that they'll be willing to spend. And there will be no limit on how they will skew the revenue that's going to be derived out of that. Not only will Nebraska have whatever ills come with gaming if we do it by petition, but we will also lose out on control, regulation, and revenue. And that just is not a good thing for the state. So whatever your thoughts are, ...and I have people in my district that are very much against casinos. I have some that are very much for as well. But those that are very much against have been particularly vocal in the time I've been in the Legislature. And I respect their views. And my response to them is, and has been, that my support to put a solution on the ballot, a proposal on the ballot, has nothing to do with whether I advocate for gambling or whether I don't. It has more to do with, what are the best choices here as policy makers for the people of Nebraska? And that's where I'm coming from. I will not advocate, if something comes on the ballot from this body, I will not advocate for or against it. We'll let the people decide that. But I do think Senator Pederson's substituted amendment offers us something that we need to consider. It offers something for the rural communities that will never have a casino no matter how much we talk about it. It isn't in the cards, due to the population base. But it also provides an opportunity, if they choose, and if the Legislature enables it, for the racetracks to have something to supplement their income and try to stay viable and alive. And we will have reduced opportunities for full-fledged casinos, from eight to a maximum of four. So I rise in support of the amendment, and I would simply ask you to consider all the alternatives, and hope that this is much better than a lot of the alternatives that there could be before us. Thank you.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Bromm. (Visitors introduced.) The next speaker in line is Senator Tyson, on AM1146, the Pederson amendment. Senator Tyson.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska, ladies and gentlemen. I'm going to speak very, very briefly on the amendment, and then some general remarks. The...what the