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new spending at this time. If you want to raise the tax higher, I think that this puts pressure on this bill. It puts pressure on this tax, and we could end up not raising the liquor tax at all. But as we lose votes, the Revenue Committee's job, I think it was, to raise some revenue this year. And I'm supporting the Revenue Committee's amendment and the bill.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Following two Revenue Committee members, and I'm a member of the Appropriations Committee. I've been on that committee for three years. I also was on the Health and Human Services Committee for three years. And I think this is an issue where we're going to have to exercise some balance. When we have tax policy, we're going to do different...things differently from other states. That's just a fact. Look at all the sales tax exemptions we have. Some states don't...we're the only state with that exemption. Other cases, we may be in line or out of line. And so our tax policy is built on our ability to determine a balance. And I believe that one way we can do that...and I wasn't going to get up until Senator Jensen's amendment came up. But since we're weighing in philosophically here, I think the whole Legislature has to balance how this tax can create some system changes. One of the frustrations that I have had all session was watching the increasing prison budget, almost doubling in ten years, looking at what's happening in communities. I go to lots of meetings with people who are working with juvenile offenders. I've also spent some time...I spent three years on the committee that worked on substance abuse in the criminal justice system, looking at the adult system. And one thing that I can tell you I heard at every meeting is that there isn't enough treatment, and when you don't have treatment and you don't have ways to keep people out of the system, we pay very, very expensively in incarceration, in law enforcement costs, in the costs in the criminal justice system. We've been hearing about accidents and drunk driving and other things, but there are...and social issues and crimes against women and children that result from alcoholism, but it's costing the state taxpayers big bucks to take care of people with addictions in our criminal justice system. I believe that in