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SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I haven't been too vocal on the gambling issue. I have always been a proponent on the people's rights to vote, to vote on this issue. If you remember the petition that was taken off the ballot last year, in that petition, which still could come back, there was absolutely no control of gambling by the Legislature, none whatsoever. There was no money put in for problem gambling, and that's the problem with some of the petitions, as I see them. On this particular amendment, we will have total control here in the Legislature. Now I'm not one of those that believes by passing gambling in this state that we're going to solve the state's budget problems. I don't believe that's going to happen. But I also don't believe we're going to have some of the...as many of the negative consequences that the other side uses. I think it's going to be somewhere in-between. But I think the people definitely should have the right to vote on this issue and, if they do opt to have gambling in the state of Nebraska, I think it needs to be regulated and it needs to be regulated by the state. And so I'm very much in favor of this amendment, and I would turn my time to Senator Schimek, if she would like.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schimek, did you wish to?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Cunningham. Senator Tyson, on the Schimek amendment, AM2401.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'll probably be up here several times on this because, if you look at what the intent of this amendment is and what they will do with the seven casinos that this amendment authorizes, not eight, it's up to eight, that's seven, you wonder at people's mind-set that would willingly surrender the electorate of Nebraska to these ills. Now I could amuse you with some of the statistics that are put out from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services that at the present time, not after we have these seven casinos, at the present time the cost to Nebraska for gambling addiction is about \$200 million a year, which is, for the proponents of this constitutional amendment,