

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

February 5, 2004 LR 14

Speaker to take the bill off the agenda because we're delaying, because she is a part of the delaying. So I don't have the ability to bring that up to the body because it's not in our provisions so I can't ask the Speaker to take it off because we're delaying. However, we are. I did get a call in my office, it was kind of interesting, that after my last comments about the fact that it's pretty amazing to me that the compulsive gambling group, the people that try to help those who are victims of what we're trying to do here, called and asked why it was that I was being critical of them, and they only want to help those who are going to be hurt. Well, I don't know if it's job security or what, but if you didn't have those people in that situation and we weren't trying to promote that in this state, then we would have less problems. Now my good friend Senator Hartnett, who happens to be the senator that represents their business location, says they are already here. We've heard estimates of that as well. But the reality also is that those individuals who are probably already there are those who are directly closest to those casinos. And it's probably a good thing that they are in Senator Hartnett's district. And, you know, I'm going to be adamantly opposed to these constitutional amendments regardless of how impassionate the speeches are that we're going to have control because, again, hello, there is going to be competing ideas out there. Those same people that everybody wants to yell at about they're opposing what we're trying to do here are going to be spending millions in favor or against, depending upon whether they will benefit. And there is no guarantee that we will get what we want, because it seems to me that the people of the state of Nebraska are willing to vote for an idea that they came up with on their own, aside from the Legislature, which that precedent has been set. So it wouldn't be a surprise to me if they chose their own. So I don't know what the best solution is as far as how you think you're going to have control. Yeah, if they voted for this, they would. And I would like to share with Senator Schimek, in the event that I would come back to this body and the members of this state would vote for expanding gambling, I would like to see some casinos built in your district. Just for fairness, sure, because if we're going to be serious about wanting casinos or wanting the people to vote, then we should be serious about having them there. Now you're probably are not going to want to put them in