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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. The body is discussing AM2599, offered by Senator Smith to LR 14CA. Further discussion? Senator Kremer, followed by Senator Kruse and others. Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I'm going to read to you out of the paper. It's not because I'm filibustering. It's got some good articles and I've seen articles like this appearing more often. My local hometown paper, the editorial mentioned some of the ills of gambling and how they do not support it, and I think there was an article in the Lincoln paper yesterday. This came from the Grand Island paper. It talks about opposition to casino gambling proposals grows, and it talks about urging Nebraska voters to become educated on the negative impacts of expanded gambling. And I'm really speaking to the amendment because I think it's good for counties to be able to decide if they...if they're like many of these here, feeling that it's not going to be good for their district. First of all, and I'll mention the names. It was in the paper. It says Bill Sapp, who operates, you know, the big truck stops and has about 1,000 people/employees in eight states, including Nebraska and Iowa, he said that gambling leads to more thefts, not only by customers but also by store employees. Jay Dunlap, the president of the Union Bank, said he's seen families broken apart due to gambling problems. There's no way that you can say gambling helps anybody lead a better life. John Dittman, president of the Cornhusker Bank, said more gambling will lead to an increase in crime and will be devastating to our families. Signing the petition or voting for expanded gambling, including casinos and slot machines, would be a bad idea, said John Anderson, an economics professor at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Contrary to the claims of gambling supporters, casinos and slot machines will only drain the state's resources, shrink the economy, and create more social problems. That was just quotes of a few people that I think are probably leaders that are starting to see that it's not going to be good for our economy or for anything, or family situations or even economical...I mean social issues that are...that would be devastating. I'd just like to ask the question, and we see it