

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

March 8, 2004

LR 209

person can have HIV, but not full-blown AIDS. And the HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus, so people shouldn't say HIV virus, because they're being redundant. But that is another example of how little awareness there is about this dread scourge. The disease is AIDS, the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. There are various tests that are given that determine, not in a direct way, what is going on, but certain other changes and substances that can be detected which will indicate the presence of a condition. There are all kinds of ways that people think that AIDS can be acquired. It would be good if somehow older people, younger people, and those in-between could abstain from the kind of conduct that is very likely to transmit AIDS. People are going to be people, and they're going to do whatever gives them pleasure, and they are willing to undertake great risks because of the notion that it is not going to happen to them. The same gambling instinct, because of trying to acquire that which is desired, that leads people to play the lottery, will lead them to engage in risky behavior because there is the promise of pleasure on the other side. The piper must be paid. If you join the dance, you're going to have something to pay. It would be good if we could wave a wand and HIV/AIDS could disappear, but that's not going to happen. It is here. There are people suffering from it. There is not enough money being spent for research, treatment, and the providing of medication. With that being a realistic assessment, in my view, of where we are, and the fact that HIV/AIDS is a very serious problem, if the state is going to dedicate money, let it dedicate something that aims directly at improving the health of the populace, that would ensure or prevent certain things from happening. The constitution should not be amended for light and trivial purposes. All the people who have spoken about the State Fair will talk about all these nostalgic memories they have. Well, you might have some nostalgic memories about school, when you went to grade school, when you went to high school or junior high school. You're not talking about putting anything into the constitution with reference to schooling, the funding, or the formula for that funding, or the specific source of that funding. But when it comes to something that I call harebrained and simpleminded,...

SPEAKER BRÖMM: One minute.