

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

March 8, 2004

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vote on. And I've got nothing against the people's right to petition. It's just that I feel we can do a better job, we can regulate it better, if it goes through the Legislature. And Senator Friend, we've talked about this all four years that I've been in the Legislature. And I can remember my first year here, Senator Schimek came around. She was getting cosponsors for her legislation, and she came up to me, and she said, I can understand this is a controversial issue; you probably don't want to sign onto this. And I didn't hesitate, because I had just been to all of those doors. I knew what the people were saying. I had no hesitancy signing on to that legislation. So I think that we need to go ahead and vote. I again want to thank those three senators, and others that have worked hard, for what they've done. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Cunningham. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Combs.

SENATOR COMBS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I received some interesting information today. And it was from Pat Loontjer. And again, I thank Pat, because she gives me more fodder for my point of view. And certainly, the things that she has sent me, the people she's sent my way from being on her hit list I've talked to about the gambling issue, all the issues we've discussed, and they say, hey, yeah, that makes sense, I can see why you feel that way and I think I have to agree with you. So thank you, Pat Loontjer, for today's news release from Canada that gambling problems play a role in at least 85 suicides a year in the country. And what do they have there? They have the VLT slot machines all over, which, as we've referred to, Senator Smith referred to South Dakota, that is the type of gaming they have. But some of the data that she sent said that the suspected gambling-related deaths represent anywhere from less than 1 percent of all suicides in Ontario to 10 percent in Alberta. Annual averages were calculated for each province, based on statistics available for the period between 1999 and 2003; still a relatively small percentage to the total number of suicides, which reached just over 4,000. They allege the deaths were largely a result of government initiatives that made gambling more available to Canadians over the past decade. The more people are exposed, the more accessibility, the more