

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

April 7, 2005

LB 480

food other than packaged snacks, and it eliminates the exception for smoking at the State Fairgrounds, university and state college residential living units and private offices. This is the bill as presented, and I'm going to next, on this time, talk primarily about the public health information that we have. And since this bill was introduced the first time and debated a few years ago when it failed to pass by two votes, we even have more information on the hazards of secondhand smoke. A lot more research is out there and probably the thing since the start of this session that I found the most staggering was that researchers in California have linked, which was always a suspected link but now there's much solid evidence, that smoking...secondhand smoke is a cause of breast cancer. One of the handouts I gave you has excerpts from the American Lung Association, the American Cancer Society, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Heart Association. I'm not going to go over these because obviously you can read them, but I think they are things you already know about how dangerous it is to have to work in this atmosphere, how bad this is, not only for adults but for illnesses in children and aggravations to illnesses, and death, and death from secondhand smoke exposure. But you may have noticed on television the last year or so that Philip Morris has started advertising not to smoke. And the statement that they have that I passed out to you is from the industry, and this is a reversal of things that were said many years ago. This is from the industry on secondhand smoke, and it says, "Public health officials have concluded that secondhand smoke from cigarettes causes disease, including lung cancer and heart disease in nonsmoking adults, as well as causes conditions in children such as asthma, respiratory infections, cough, wheeze, middle ear infection and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. In addition, public health officials have concluded that secondhand smoke can exacerbate adult asthma, cause eye, throat and nasal irritation. Secondhand smoke, also known as ETS, environmental tobacco smoke, is a combination of smoke coming from the end of the cigarette plus the smoke exhaled by a person smoking." What I want us to do, and I know we're going to spend quite a bit of time on this bill, because every person in Nebraska, unlike a lot of other things that we debate, has an opinion on this. Everyone has an opinion. I have not run into anyone who doesn't