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

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have smoking and then leave out the fact that it's flat-out irresponsible for that parent, who knows that their children have asthma, to take them in there. It's a two-way street. Senator Thompson is bringing valuable public health issues. This is a public health issue. This is also a big government This is a regulation issue. This is whatever issue you want it to be, flat-out. But at the same time when we're talking about what the public policy of the state of Nebraska is, Senator Friend is right, you have to have people who understand what it is that they're doing and are responsible for their own actions and how their actions affect others in order for public policy to be effective. So, Senator Johnson, if that individual takes their child into a restaurant that they know is smoke-filled, they should have some level of responsibility for happens there, flat-out. Now, in the event that there is no smoking anywhere, then that alleviates the responsibility of the parent in that area and then we can focus their attention on making sure that when they're driving to the restaurant that they're not blazing the four cigarettes that Senator Friend was talking about. The other thing that's interesting is why this needs to be done on a statewide level. The city of Lincoln has done what they're going to do. And actually, Senator Bourne has an amendment that I think is a fair proposal, and I have an amendment to that, that would bring in another community in the state of Nebraska considering a similar idea. But we heard testimony in the Health Committee from a restaurant in Lincoln said we went smoke free. We had all this information presented two years ago from our good friends at different advocacy organizations on this issue, or singular organization on this issue, that said if you voluntarily go smoke free your revenue will increase; people will flock to your store, flock to your business. That business lost 10 percent of their clientele the first year. So now it's also an economic issue, because it's not just a public health issue but now it's an economic issue, and I think that should be a part of the discussion. It flat-out is. You have bars in Lincoln that are losing their shorts. You got restaurants, according to this one, that was losing 10 percent when it was a voluntary decision, and yet all the estimates and all the research showed that they should be getting more money. The discussion should be open to whoever wants to bring whatever perspective they do, and Senator