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

April 7, 2005 LB 480

SENATOR THOMPSON: For the purposes of this, the Clean Indoor Air Act in this definition, yes. One of the issues that's popped up, most people don't think children are permitted in bars in this state, and I think it's important that we make it clear that if there is smoking in their entirety and they...we are protecting children from that. I mean, I've spent time in south Omaha. There are a lot of little Kwik Shop things and other places that they can go in and get a bottle of water. I think this is a way...this I feel is a very important statement that we're making as a Legislature and as the public...I mean, representing the public here, that if bars are going to be totally smoking that children should not be there.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: I mean, do you...is it your position, then, that the health concerns relative to this outweigh the kind of examples I'm giving? You know, it happens every day in my community. I'm sure it happens in smaller communities throughout the state. Kids are out. They want to get a bottle of pop. And actually, there are not a whole lot of Kwik Shops and them sort of venues in my district and, you know, the local bar is the only reservoir of activity with regards to getting a cold bottle of pop or something and a bag of chips. Truly, within areas of my part of town, that's the only vendor available if you're on a bike. And you truly think that the public health concerns outweighs these kind of isolated instances where a youngster will go into a tavern and buy a bottle of pop; that you want to prohibit that activity in the interests of public health?

SENATOR THOMPSON: First...well, let me address a number of those. There are lots of places to buy a bottle of pop. I don't think we should be making it clear, either on the legislative debate or, you know, with the Liquor Control Commission that we're encouraging children to be in bars. I don't think it's a healthy place for children to be.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: And they can stop at a gas station. They can...I mean, there are plenty of places to get a bottle of pop.