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LB 480

My...children...if bars have smoking then children shouldn't be there. There are probably a lot of other reasons they shouldn't be there, and I think if you'd ask the average person, till this came up, I didn't think children were permitted in bars in this state, but...because alcohol drinking age is 21. So I don't...this is a public health issue and that's what this is about and I think this is important to have in the bill. If you want to try to amend it out, you know, that's your call.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: I appreciate the comments, Senator Thompson. It's just from the practical perspective, everyday living in my district, south Omaha, you know, that I did these activities when I was younger. And I certainly don't want to disengage these small tavern entrepreneurs and the community benefit they provide in the terms of sponsoring these Little League Baseball teams, Little League Football teams.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: I would sure hate to have that be disengaged from my community. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Synowiecki. Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Chambers and others.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise just to state my position on the bill. I'll try to be brief. I think there's going to be more opportunities to speak on some of the later amendments. But I did not sign onto this bill, but it wasn't because I didn't support the basic concept of the bill, but at the time that the bill was being introduced, I didn't know how it conflicted with Lincoln's newly passed ordinance and I didn't want it to cause any problems on that front. I know now that it doesn't and I am supportive. I actually like the fact that this bill, as in opposed to the Lincoln ordinances, allows some discretion in the bar business, depending whether they are in the food business or not, and so I like that aspect of it. I think it's a little bit more moderate approach. Some would probably disagree with that. I am kind of interested in the discussion that just started between Senator Synowiecki and Senator Thompson, because when I had the