

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

April 7, 2005

LB 480

a lot of people because he had heard others say the same thing. I said, then why don't you cut out the smoking in your establishment? He said, not only him but others had a problem with that. He didn't know what impact it might have on his business, but the best thing that the city or the state could do for him and other restaurateurs would be to ban smoking; then they don't have to appear that they are cutting off something that their patrons had done. He said he'd be in a position to say, at that time it was the city, has established that there cannot be smoking in the restaurant; that's why there is no smoking. All this person had was what might be referred to as a partition and it might have stood about four feet, six inches high in terms of the height of that partition from the floor. So it did not stop smoke from circulating in the establishment. It simply marked off the area where people could go and smoke openly. So I don't go there anymore. It's the Old Country Buffet. I don't go there anymore. In fact, I don't go to restaurants because of the smoke, and they may not miss my little amount of money. As far as what Senator Friend said about the state not being able to ban smoking, there are what are known as police powers. This means the states and the federal government have authority in certain areas to enact legislation that looks after the health and the welfare of the citizenry. With all of the evidence that is overwhelming, even found in the secret documents of tobacco companies, that the use of tobacco products is devastating to the health of individuals and society at large, do you think it took tons of scientific research to point out that secondhand smoke is harmful when there are people who would go into establishments where there is smoke hanging in the air, they would begin to cough, they would have difficulties breathing? It's known. But the tobacco industry is powerful, and you're listening and observing the power of the liquor industry here today. Their products are not helpful. They're not healthful, either. They have no redeeming qualities whatsoever. When Senator Synowiecki and Senator Bourne and others make their pitch, they're not talking about the citizens. They're talking about the purveyors who make a living dispensing unhealthful products. That's what this discussion is about--the liquor industry, the tobacco industry. I would not be proud to talk about children being taken into an adult...