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FLOOR DEBATE

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floor, about secondhand smoke. So I'm going to use information here from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This is, as you know, funded by the federal government. Secondhand smoke has been classified as a known human carcinogen, or group A carcinogen. This classification is reserved for those compounds or mixtures that have been shown to cause cancer in humans, based on studies of human population. Secondhand smoke is a complex mixture of more than 4,000 chemicals found in both the vapor and the particles. I think there are a number of other things. And I could pass more paper out to you, but instead I'm going to just mention this, what the findings of the CDC are. The chemicals in secondhand smoke poison the heart muscle, interfere with blood vessels' ability to adjust themselves to control blood pressure and flow, and increase the buildup of blockages of blood vessels. Each year, secondhand smoke is responsible for approximately 35,000 deaths from coronary heart disease in adult nonsmokers. Every year, secondhand smoke is responsible for up to 26,000 new asthma cases in children, and up to 300,000 cases of bronchitis and pneumonia in toddlers, 7,500 to 15,000 which require hospitalization. Because their lungs are not fully developed, young children are particularly susceptible to the damaging effects of secondhand smoke. I'd also like to point out that the people who work in restaurant industry are a lot of teenagers, and a lot of women of childbearing years. And by enacting Senator Bourne's amendment, we would be discouraging cities from having a stronger, more enlightened public health standard for secondhand smoke than we as a state can probably pass. LB 480 is, I think, the best we can do as a Legislature, come together and get the 25 votes to get the job done. A number of you told me you're undecided on this issue. And this is always an uphill battle in this body, always an uphill battle. But...and you ask me why I continue to do this. Because I care about the health of the people of this state. Because every year, the evidence builds, the scientific evidence builds--this is harmful to people. And we set the public health standards. I oppose Senator Bourne's...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...amendment because it weakens our ability