

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

April 12, 2005 LB 480

create a business to provide jobs, to provide tax revenue for the state and for the localities in which they're located, and then the government comes in and says, however, you can't allow this conduct. And we had business owners say that their businesses was down 30, 40, 50 percent. Put yourself in their shoes. Take \$1 million out of your pocket and open a restaurant, and then have some government come in and take half of your revenue. We had a guy that owned a cigar bar. He came in and he said, I am going to lose my business. Every penny I have will go down the drain because of this law. That's not appropriate. That's not what government should do. I think the people in Lincoln did vote for this. But I don't believe that the handful, or the dozens of business owners had appropriate input. That's why I'm here. I do want to talk a little bit about the science. Senator Thompson said it's clear and conclusive. And I'm no scientist. I'm not a doctor. But I was handed, by a colleague of mine, a copy of a British Medical Journal article that was published May 17 of 2003. The objective of this article was to measure the relation between environmental tobacco smoke as estimated by smoking in spouses and long-term mortality from tobacco-related disease. It studied the adult population in California, and it concluded, the results do not support a causal relation between environmental tobacco smoke and tobacco-related mortality, although they do not rule out a small effect. The association between exposure to environmental tobacco smoke and coronary heart disease and lung cancer may be considerably weaker than generally believed. Now, I'm not...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...I'm not a scientist, I'm not a doctor. I'm just saying that there was an article in the British Medical Journal that seems to say that maybe the correlation isn't as significant. Although earlier in the debate I conceded that secondhand smoke is not good, and I conceded that it's okay...you know, I kind of like going to a restaurant and not leaving there smelling like smoke. But I also see that there has to be a balance between the rights of the individuals who put money out of their own pocket into creating a business, and government intrusion or interruption. And I don't think it's