

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

April 12, 2005 LB 480

talk to him. I mean, this isn't...you know, doesn't make any sense. We give stuff to Lincoln, Omaha, outstate Nebraska. We do stuff for them all the time. It's a matter of public policy that we decide by this body. This same body can decide that we don't want secondhand smoke to affect employees and people in restaurants, bars, public places. We can make that decision. I'm a cancer survivor. I was diagnosed with esophageal cancer, that's cancer of the esophagus, in 1985. I was told by my doctor that I really would be lucky if I lived two years. I'm a survivor. I used to be a heavy smoker. I smoked until the first Great American Smokeout, November 20 of 1980, and I quit. My doctors told me, not only once, but dozens of times after my surgery, which helped me survive, at which at least twice over Sunday churches over two weeks my parents and in-laws were called out of church because I wasn't going to live through the day, because my lungs collapsed, and my doctors told me time and again, Denny, if you had not quit smoking, you never, ever would have survived. Now, what does that have to do with secondhand smoke? It has to do with smoking. Everything about smoking, everything about the secondhand smoke that we take into our bodies, is negative. It's bad for Senator Bourne. It's bad for Senator Bourne's son. It's bad for Senator Mines. It's bad for his family. It's bad for every member of this body, and every member of our families. And every possible way that we as public officials, making good public policy that can improve the public health of our citizens, it's our responsibility to do so.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BYARS: I have been consistent--and Senator Bourne is absolutely right--in my passion for protecting people, whether they be an occupant of a vehicle, whether it's wearing a helmet, whether it's secondhand smoke, whether it's smoking. I have been consistent in my absolute passion for public health. And I do hope that you will really, seriously think about this amendment, and defeat it when we bring it to a vote. And I say that with all due respect to Senator Bourne and the others on the other side of this issue. But I feel very passionately about this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. Mr. Clerk, do you