

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

April 13, 2005      LB 480

person, Senator Synowiecki, that we'll call Deep Throat. And Senator Thompson criticized the study, saying that it was funded by tobacco, but I just want to tell you exactly what this study did again. And the objective of the study...and it was, as Senator Thompson says, it was funded by tobacco interests. But I will tell you that most studies that are put in journals, whether they be the medical journal here in the States or abroad, are funded oftentimes by pharmaceutical companies. So I don't really see a difference between a study that says a particular drug is good, if that study was funded by Pfizer or Wyeth or some other drug company, versus a study that was printed in the British Medical Journal that was maybe in part, according to Senator Thompson, funded by tobacco. And again, this study, I want to talk about it. It was...the objective was to measure the relation between environmental tobacco smoke as estimated by smoking in spouses and long-term mortality from tobacco-related diseases. And they studied the adult population in California. And this article was printed or published in the British Medical Journal in 2003, so it's fairly recent. And what they basically concluded is that the results do not support a causal relation between environmental tobacco smoke and tobacco-related mortality. The association between exposure to environmental tobacco smoke and coronary heart disease among cancer may, and I guess it does say may, be considerably weaker...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...than generally believed. So I...yesterday when I talked about this study that was given to me and when Senator Thompson indicated that it was funded by tobacco, "Big Tobacco," I think is the term she used, at first I thought the individual that gave it to me was actually a supporter of the bill instead of being an opponent as they said they were. But then as I reviewed it a little further, I think that...I think this is a valid piece of study and I'm not certain that there is a correlation or at least it's as extensive as people have made it out to be. But again, I am going to support Senator Synowiecki's amendment and urge you to do so as well. Thank you.