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recognized to open on LB 117.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. This is a bill that many of us are aware of. I think any of us that read the paper or listen to the news realize how significant a problem methamphetamine use and manufacture is in our communities and in the surrounding states. I'd like to thank Senator Aguilar for his interest in the bill, and Senator Stuthman for prioritizing it. And as you know, I introduced LB 117 on behalf of the Governor and the Attorney General, and I think that it is a bill that makes sense. It is a compromise from what we had in the green copy of the bill. We took input from the hearing and the process worked as it should. We made the bill better in a lot of ways and we responded to the requests and input from those present at the hearing. The idea of LB 117 is to put up a roadblock for those folks who manufacture methamphetamine here in the state of Nebraska. If we can get local labs under control here, we can put more resources towards fighting the imports of those...that methamphetamine coming from other states and even other countries. There is one ingredient that is common in the manufacture of methamphetamine and that is pseudoephedrine or...pseudoephedrine or ephedrine. There's a lot of different things that a meth cook can use, but the one common ingredient is pseudoephedrine or ephedrine, and the purpose of LB 117 is to control access to that one common input and stop or curtail or limit the amount of meth that's available here in the state of Nebraska. I'll go through and tell you what is in the green copy of the bill. Although the committee amendment has modified it significantly, I do think it is important to let you know where we started and what we're suggesting that we do or end up at with the committee amendment. In the green copy, in addition to increasing the penalties for meth production and trafficking, the original version of the bill would limit the access of products containing pseudoephedrine, and again, under the green copy of the bill, and I think it's important that you understand what's in the green copy so that you can tell how much or to what extent we have gone to compromise, I didn't say weaken the bill, I said compromise, to the interests of the retailers and the pharmaceutical companies and the pharmacists. The green copy of the bill stipulated that these products containing