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

April 27, 2005 LB 117

what it is I'm talking about. There are people of all ages who use Sudafed. Right now, anybody with the money can go into the store and purchase it. Some stores have it behind counters, glass cases which are locked, and have taken other precautions, none of which I object to. Creating an artificial barrier for the vast majority of the people in this state, in fact I will say all of the people because the number or the percentage of people cooking meth is so infinitesimally small compared to all of the people who are using Sudafed throughout this state that I can say you're unconvincing all of the people who make use of this legal across-the-counter drug. Don't inconvenience them when by so doing you're not even going to stop the bad guy from doing what he wants to do. You think he won't get ingredients that are needed? Let's say that he can't, but he wants to stay in the business. Then he'll find somebody who is hustling the substance and tell him, hey, I'll sell it for you. That's the way you hook people into selling other drugs. They're addicts, you give them a little bit, then you pay them off in drugs, and you make them sell drugs. And if they don't come up with the money or they steal the drugs, then you kill them. That hasn't changed. This bill is not going to change any of that. When people want to compare it to beer and tobacco, those are substances that harm. They do harm. Tobacco products kill. We're talking about a medication that helps enhance health. equate a health-producing medicine with drugs that kill, cripple and damage the mind, I think is inappropriate. The fact that you have certain restrictions on those who sell alcohol and tobacco is no justification for carrying those restrictions over to deal with a product that not only is legal but it generates health. People do not buy Sudafed to get high. They're talking, the ones who want this bill, and who want to put restrictions, they're talking about an end product of which the substance, the active ingredient in Sudafed, can be used and is necessary to produce that end product. The Sudafed, however, is being discussed here as though it is the end product. being discussed as though it causes people to lose their minds, to commit crimes, to suffer deleterious health effects in their own body. That's not what Sudafed does. That's not what it's intended to do, and it will not do that. So we don't even have an equivalency here between Sudafed and any of these other harmful substances. Therefore, to say that a person has to be