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LB 117

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. First of all, I want to thank Senator Aguilar on his comments before. I, you know, echo those comments also. We've been discussing about statistics, 80 percent, 20 percent, 90 percent, 10 percent, 20 percent, 80 percent. To me all of those figures are immaterial. You can put any type of figures out there you want to. But I think the issue that we're dealing with is what happens and what occurs to the brain when people use methamphetamine. It alters their brain. That's the issue. That's the concern of mine. The people that get addicted to it, that are offered this for the first time and get on it, they cannot help themselves. But their mind continually tells them the high that they get next time is going to be better than the last time and they never reach that goal. But they continue to strive to get there. So immaterial in my opinion of the figures and the facts that we're utilizing. The main issue is what it's doing to our people. And I think we need to really seriously concentrate on that. If we let this continue as it has, you know, in the last several years, these people are going to be on treatment. People that are on treatment, are they an asset to the community or are they a liability to the state of Nebraska? In my opinion, that group of people are going to be a liability to the state of Nebraska. Why do I say that? They're going to be in the treatment program. They're not going to have the jobs. They're going to be concentrating on the treatment, and that is a cost to every one of the taxpayers. So immaterial of what the amount of time is being spent on it, let's deal with what the effects of meth are and should we be controlling that. In my opinion, yes. In my opinion, LB 117 is just a small step to accomplish that. Thank you and I give the balance of my time back to the Chair.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Chambers, your light is next.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature, and for my colleagues, it's not ours to give time or to take time. Time marches on no matter what we do or don't do. We can pass it, we can spend it, but we can't give it back. We cannot stop it. Now that I've said that, I've watched Senator Stuthman as he talks. I'm not going to wear a white