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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 117

a situation here that certainly I didn't want Nebraska to be in. I didn't want any state to be in, and I wish that we had a national policy here rather than individual state policies. But Iowa did pass one of the toughest meth bills in the country, and last week there was an Iowa vehicle that was a mobile meth lab found in Sarpy County. On Monday, Iowa's law goes into effect, one of the toughest meth bills in the country, that does have a log requirement, does have many other things that this bill...which LB 117, I think, is a great start and I'm strongly in support of it. But still, these people are going to go where there's least resistance, where they can find an opportunity to produce meth and get their products without any problem, by walking into a store. We certainly all know that you...cigarettes are now behind the counter. That was to stop underaged from smoking. I think it has worked. But it is very important that we here in Nebraska have the proper legislation that will restrict, to a point, meth use and being able to obtain products. Every year, at least once a year, I go down to Catholic Charities' Campus for Hope in Omaha, which is the detox center in Omaha. And visiting with the director down there, Scot Adams, even individuals now coming in or being picked up on the city streets and using marijuana, they will find in marijuana it's being laced with methamphetamine. Cocaine is being laced with methamphetamine. Why? Because the high is higher and it's longer. I don't think we have a choice here, my colleagues, that we must pass some legislation and we must pass some tough legislation. Is it going to inconvenience some people? I absolutely think it will. I'm also one of those who believes that all pharmaceuticals are used far in excess as to their need. And to make it a little tougher, to perhaps get that, you know, a few hours, generally the cold goes away, the stuffiness sometimes goes away. I'm stuffed up this morning. It must be something in the air. And, yes, I used to take Sudafed fairly regularly. Found out Sudafed raises blood pressure. I don't do that anymore. My blood pressure gets raised enough in here. But anyway, I think it is really imperative that we pass some legislation that is meaningful. I think LB 117 is just that legislation that will do that. And to make it a little inconvenient for a few people in purchasing of their pharmaceuticals, I'm ready to go there. With that, I'll return the rest of my time back to the Chair. Thank you.