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FLOOR DEBATE

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SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Smith, you're recognized to open on that amendment.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. This amendment is rather straightforward. It basically says that one cannot smoke in a vehicle while a child is in the car heading down the road. And I think this is very reasonable when we're talking about health and safety issues. I think smoking in public at a public place is one thing; smoking in a vehicle with a minor child in the car I think is very different. It's a captive location and I think it is quite reasonable and I do plan to take this to a vote. I think this is an issue of public health and I think certainly if we're going to mandate a booster seat that could save a life and potentially be a safety issue based on whether one has an accident or not, I think that the smoking issue is obviously 100 percent of the time a harm to the children who are not smoking in the vehicle. And I would urge your adoption of AM3470. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on the amendment. Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I don't have a lot to say on this issue. I would...I'm mainly speaking on the bill, not the amendment, but I will tell you that originally I had voted against this bill and I always come down on the side of less government intervention. But I was at a function in my district a couple weekends ago and there was maybe ten people, a cross section of people, all with small kids, and the issue came up and I said, well, I had voted against it. And every single person in that group was on the other side from me--every single one. And one of those people was a campaign committee member of mine, and they gave their reasons and I gave mine, and in the end, they won out and I said I had not had any other correspondence from the district. And when I get in a room and ten people tell me that I was wrong, I'm going to change my opinion. And I came back the next Monday and told Senator Thompson that I would be supporting her bill from here on out, so if any of the amendments that are coming look to me like they're going to be trying to hurt the bill, I