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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Further discussion. Senator Brashear, Beutler amendment.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'm not certain where we're going. And certainly, the points made by Senator Beutler and Senator Chambers are accurate. This is an important public policy consideration. But I certainly want to rise in support of what Senator Erdman is spelling out to the body, because there has been a lot of confusion about this, there has been a lot of confusion over four years. And not being critical at all, but just trying to make certain that we don't get further confused, we've talked about the age so much that I found myself even being confused. This is not about lowering the age at which a minor can do what we're talking about. Because the common law in the state of Nebraska today is that a minor, without regard to age, can contract for the necessities of life. Now therein lies the rub. What is a necessary of life? Generally, we are talking about such things as food, clothing, shelter, transportation, those kinds of things. But before we keep talking about lowering the age, let's understand, there is no age floor at law now. A 14-year-old could enter...who was not supported by parents or guardians, could enter into contracts for food, clothing, shelter, the like, necessities of life, and those contracts could be enforced in a court of law. Senator Erdman proposed 15 years of age, in response...I think, in a general sense; I'm not trying to get inside Senator Erdman's mind. He proposed 15 years of age, because we had such a significant discussion, substantive debate on the floor on General File on LB 391, where we talked about, what age should it be? So 15 in that context, letting everybody below 15 disavow contracts for necessities, or necessities, both terms are used, and not letting people above 15, is a tightening and a clarification of the law from what it is today in the common law. I do not support Senator Beutler's amendment. I think 18 is much worse and not better, particularly in the situation where you have self-supporting and emancipated minors, maybe even with children, who need to be able to enter into valid and enforceable contracts at the age of 16 or 15 or 17. So I'm not going to support the Beutler amendment. I'm going to try and be supportive of the continued discussion of whether 15 is good public policy. I understand we