

could kill somebody and the only thing they could do is take away his license. Now it is interesting that we are on Select File and we're just now finding things like that out about this particular bill. Maybe that is one of the reasons that the Public Health and Welfare Committee refused to advance this bill from committee and that is maybe one reason why we should be a little more cautious when we take bills from a committee when they are considering them and yet analyzing them but that is behind us. LB 382 presents an emotional issue, yet we as 49 men and women who determine what the law of the State of Nebraska is should approach this issue calmly and as objectively as possible. I would like to begin by analyzing some information in the scientific research and work on the substance laetrile. Laetrile is the common name for processed apricot pits. The proponents claim it is a vitamin. They call it vitamin B-17 because vitamins are popular but there is no recognized vitamin in medical nomenclature beyond vitamin B-14 but that is the way it is presented because it is popular. For years folklore has held that laetrile is an effective treatment for cancer, and as this rumor spread, scientific research on this issue was began and there have been literally dozens of studies on laetrile, and after a good deal of research, after we have been faced with this bill now for two years, I have yet to find a scientific study which says that laetrile is effective in treating cancer. All the medical and scientific research agrees that laetrile is not effective in treating cancer. One exception is a study by a biologist named Dr. Harold Manner and Dr. Manner indicates that his results cannot be duplicated and he questions their own validity and I have a newspaper clipping that I would be happy to share with you if you question that. Despite the overwhelming negative results of medical and scientific research on the substance laetrile, the Food and Drug Administration is again authorizing another study on laetrile and this time they are going to use human volunteers. That study will begin in the next few months. I would believe that even the most ardent laetrile supporters would ask to wait and see what the results of that particular study are. I think the question of the effectiveness of laetrile is fundamentally a question of credibility. As policymakers we should base our decisions I believe on objective scientific research and not on unsubstantiated very emotional testimonials. Enacting LB 382 sends a message throughout Nebraska irrespective of what it says that the state legalizes laetrile and that is an endorsement of laetrile in my mind. It says we, the elected representatives of the