

of the bill as it was introduced and as it exists currently is to fund research on smoking related diseases including, nonspecifically, cancer. As the bill was introduced, it also had some other functions to provide education and information on smoking to the public and to provide for screening, detection and prevention of cancer and other functions as well. The philosophy of the bill is that we should increase the cigarette tax to fund smoking related research and education. The mechanism for LB 506 as it exists is to establish a Nebraska Smoking Disease and Cancer Research fund. It creates a peer review panel composed of individuals experienced in research and it appropriates \$500,000 to the Eppley Cancer Institute to insure that that facility continues to operate. The remainder of the one cent on cigarette tax or approximately \$1.2 million would be placed in the research fund. The tax increase is from 13 cents to 14 cents. I think there is a tremendous need in the State of Nebraska for us to do something about cancer and about research and also about smoking related diseases. When you look at some health care reports that I recently examined that came into my office, there is an estimate that smoking costs in direct health care, excuse me, not in direct, but direct and indirect cost of smoking as far as diseases were concerned, the increase in health care cost as a result of smoking nationwide is \$27 billion. When you extrapolate that to the State of Nebraska, smoking costs us as far as additional health care costs approximately \$3 billion. This includes not only cancer but heart disease, lung cancer, bronchitis and emphysema. Another reason that I believe we need to do more research and have a program in this area in the State of Nebraska is that Nebraskans are smoking at much higher rates than the rest of the nation is smoking. There is a recent study released by the University of Nebraska that indicated that young Nebraskans smoke more and more younger Nebraskans smoke than is true nationwide. I can give those figures to you if you desire them but the trend from the information that we have is that for some reason or another young Nebraskans are smoking more now than they did in the past despite the fact that we know so much about the problems relating to smoking. There were three thousand cancer related deaths in the State of Nebraska in 1980 and approximately 5,500 people will develop cancer this year in this state. The direct cost for cancer in Nebraska for 1981 will be approximately \$75 million and the indirect cost for cancer will be in excess of \$145 million for 1981. Last year in the laetrile debates when we tried to deal with this problem, a lot of people I think looked at some of us in the Legislature as being rather discompassionate and not concerned about those people who had been afflicted with cancer, and