

issue for me. I've been on all sides of it. Quite frankly I voted, I think I was the 25th vote to kill the lottery bill one year. Another...a week or two later I was the 25th vote to bring the bill back to life. It's an issue that I've had difficulty finding in my own heart of hearts what I really believe. I have come to a conclusion. I was prepared to vote very quietly what my conclusion was on this matter until I heard the speeches from Senator Peterson a few minutes ago and Senator Hoagland a few minutes later. By their remarks one would conclude that the only reason anybody could ever support this bill is because they have caved in to arm twisting and to all sorts of other types of pressure. I feel it important that I stand up and say that I have had absolutely no arm twisting on this measure, nobody has come to me threatening to hold one of my bills hostage although they certainly could have had a fine opportunity to yesterday. One of my bills passed yesterday with only 26 votes, but nobody has come to me pressuring me by threatening my bills or any other sorts of pressure. I think it is unfair of the opponents of this measure to resort to that type of moralistic rhetoric. I think if they cannot defeat this bill based on its own merits then they shouldn't be trying. I have decided to come and be a supporter of this bill, not because of arm twisting, nor because of the money, the revenue, although I know the folks down in Bellevue feel like it has been very helpful to them as far as revenue. I am not a strong supporter of gambling. That's not the reason I am supporting the bill. The reason I have decided to support this bill is because I see it as an adult responsible way of putting some sort of restraints on these devices. I know Senator Labeledz talks about the unregulated machines within the state. Last fall I was in a little establishment in her district that happened to be right across the Harrison Street where the machines were legal. They were running illegally in her district. We were getting no revenue from them and we were having no regulation of them. What I like about LB 144 is that it finally puts some teeth into the regulation of the video lotteries. No one under 21 will be able to play the machines. They will be limited to bars. They will be licensed and I feel like we have a responsible adult way of dealing with this problem. I would urge you to support LB 144.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers, please.