

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. I will now recognize Senator Smith, followed by Senator Schmit, Nelson, and Lamb. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Madam President. I didn't realize that I'd come up this soon, but I think, in fact, what I would just like to do is respond a little bit to what Senator Hefner said, and I appreciate where you are coming from, Senator Hefner. But I could argue the fact that when you talk about what you are doing is you are separating those who can least afford it from their money, that is true to a certain extent, except the studies now show us that that is not as true as we'd thought in the past. And you can make that argument back in 1935, when we allowed the voters to vote for the constitutional provision that placed the opportunity for horse racing in the State of Nebraska, and I have seen support by members of this body that tell me they are opposed to gambling for the horse racing industry in Nebraska. That is gambling and I don't care what you want to call it otherwise. It is a form of gambling and it certainly is designed to separate people from their money, just as any other type of gambling is. And so, you know, if you are going to argue that you shouldn't let people have the vote to decide, to tell our people, though you know that many people in your district are supportive of it, I think what you are doing is disallowing them an opportunity that we have provided on many occasions in many other constitutional amendments that would allow people to tell us what they are thinking, what their consensus of the state is. And so, again, I strongly urge the support of this amendment. This amendment, itself, I was just speaking with Senator Lamb here briefly, I want to make it very clear that this amendment, this constitutional provision that is in the form of a legislative resolution does not instigate gambling. It simply allows the people to say, do we or do we not want to get into the business of state operated and regulated gambling? And I think it is time that we have that message. I'd rather have it that way, as Senator Moore has brought to us this morning, than have it brought via a petition process, and then have people maybe be getting something they don't know is in that petition. This is a much safer way to go. It simply is saying, do you or do you not support a state run and regulated lottery? It does not begin anything in itself. Again, I ask for your support for the advancement of this resolution. Thank you.