

yeah, you are going to have a lottery, here it is. We are saying, okay, you can decide if you want a lottery or not, people of Nebraska. We will put it on the ballot and you vote it up or down, and if you tell us you want one, we have got the mechanism there to put a good one in place. I would urge your support for the advancement of LR 24.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Madam President and members of the body, I simply rise to support the advancement of LR 24CA. A lot of things have been said about it. I think this is really necessary for the people to tell us how they feel about the lottery question, and I also agree with Senator Schmit earlier. I think we are behind the curve. I think we are going to have so many keno operations in all the cities, with Omaha, our largest city, looking at that with their operation, so I think the revenue we get from the statewide lottery, if it ever gets into place, is not going to be that great for whatever purpose, whether we put it in the General Fund or educational fund and so forth. Who plays the keno? I had an opportunity over the weekend to talk to the person who operates the keno in our city, it is mostly people from middle class that come in. They may come in, you know, maybe once every week or something, but it is not the poor, and it is probably not the ones that drive the Mercedes or anything, but it is the middle class. It is simply looked at as a type of enjoyment. And so I simply rise to support this constitutional amendment. I think that we are taking the right step, rather than let some group through a petition that we do not have con...the state does not have control of it. So this way we can draft and craft legislation that we are in charge of the lottery process.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. I am going to interrupt right now to introduce some special guests to the Legislature. First of all, seated under the north balcony is a guest of Senator Lynch. She is Denise Taylor Croshaw, a student at Creighton University. Under the south balcony are Bruce and Carol Hendrickson from Holdrege, Nebraska, who are special guests of Senator Schrock. And seated in the south balcony are 40 fifth graders from Milford Elementary School with their teachers, and they are special guests of Senator Moore. Would you all rise and be recognized and welcomed to the Chambers. Thank you. The speaking order now is Senator Peterson, Schellpeper, Wesely, Lamb, Nelson, Wehrbein, and Warner.