

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I am probably one of the members who supported Senator Dierks at every stage of debate during the discussion two years ago. I've got to make sure that when I discuss this matter, Senator Nelson will sit here and smile at me with her powerful powers of persuasion on this bill, but one of the things that moved me the most about Senator Dierks' and Senator Nelson's arguments were those of minors two years ago and that was pretty powerful in terms of what I was looking at. One of my best friends is a dentist. He showed me all the pictures of the harm that occurs, all the mouths and so on that are destroyed of people of all ages and so, and I found that very moving particularly with minors to do that. Senator Morrissey's amendment is one that I probably would have supported in the past. However, with Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment being attached, where we're going to ban tobacco from minors is probably, I think, the more comprehensive amendment and the one that I've been supportive in the past. We talked in committee about tobacco products. It seemed kind of crazy to me that I couldn't sell it to a minor, but it wasn't illegal for him to have it, so you couldn't give it to him, they couldn't buy it, at the same time it was legal for them to have it and it just didn't make any sense to me. I think as far as I am concerned, I think with Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment getting adopted, you do away with all that phony-baloney. The fact that it's illegal for them to have it, it's illegal for them to have liquor. Does that stop them? No. Unfortunately, if you're going to want to ban these things, we ought to ban all liquor and all tobacco and that that's going to get rid of our ills, I can't protect people from themselves. In fact, Senator...I won't use Senator Smith's name when we were talking, but we were talking about how we protect ourselves from each other and that I should mandate that you've got to use condoms every time you have sex so I can absolutely do away with AIDS. Well, that probably isn't going to work. Maybe the only way to avoid AIDS entirely is to get rid of blood transfusions, I get rid of all sex, I get rid of all those sorts of things and that probably...I mean, that is unrealistic, but that's a good goal, something we ought to do. If we're going to get rid of tobacco causing injury and damage, we've got to ban it totally. That ought to be the issue. The same way that if you think liquor is bad for minors, you ought to ban it for everybody. The practical matter is you can't and it won't happen. Not because it isn't the right thing to do, but it isn't going to do any good. You can't save adults from themselves. So the true