

they have no regard whatsoever for the damage that is done through the sale and use of this product. As legislators, we are policymakers and we know that. When we take positions by voting on various propositions, we are doing it in an institutional capacity as a body and on some issues such as this in an individualized personal capacity. We are making a statement. We are declaring our value system. We are saying that the lives of the citizens are not really important when you weigh them against the profits to be made by the tobacco industry, that the tobacco industry being a large conglomeration of big shots who make tremendous amounts of money, that industry is so important because of the amount of money involved that the welfare and health of the citizenry must take a backseat. That's what is being said. When people try to equate tobacco with any other product, it is fallacious. Even alcohol in some forms can serve a medicinal purpose. Tobacco in no way used in any fashion serves any worthwhile purpose. It is the only legal substance which kills, which has been proven to kill, to cause a multitude of ailments that cost the nation billions of dollars in health costs, that cost this state millions of dollars. We will argue and have to talk about scraping up enough money to provide assistance to poor women to have mammograms, but then we just disregard the hundreds of millions of dollars in health care costs that are created through the use of tobacco products.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That is crazy. But whenever enough money is involved morality is compromised. All of this talk of ethics, all this talk of morality is shown to be nothing but words and wind. This is partly why young people pay no attention to adults because there is so much preachifying and no showing by example the validity of the so-called principles that we say ought to guide conduct. If it's not good enough for me, it's not good enough for them. Senator Morrissey has a good amendment. I hope that it will be adopted.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Madam President and members of the body, if I might I'd like to ask Senator Morrissey a question or two.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Yes.