

day of work because of some of the new medications that are out that allow us to be able to handle these things. Because I had breast cancer, it is in total remission now, but I will face always the possibility of a bone marrow transplant if the cancer would metastasize. So all the research that goes into this is something that I support wholeheartedly. One of the other areas of research that is going on that is very important to me and I think is important to all of us is a study on tamoxifen, which is a medication with breast cancer, and they are involved with the research to give this to see if it is a preventative measure. Because my mother had breast cancer, because I lost an aunt from breast cancer, I would like very much to see this research go on so my daughter does not have to face what I went through. I know I am not the only one in the Chamber who has been faced with cancer or had cancer in their family, and it is something that those that have not are very lucky, and I think we should do anything to put this money into research that we possibly can. I think it is also very advantageous to have it here in our state where our citizens do not have to travel out of the state but are able to go to some of the local hospitals and be able to get the treatment that is necessary. I would urge your support of this bill.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Day. Senator Vrtiska, followed by Senators Robinson, Lindsay, and Will.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Hall, members in the Chamber. Senator Day spoke correctly. I doubt if there is anybody in this Chamber who has not experienced at least a friend, a neighbor, or a family member who has experienced cancer. Certainly, that has been the case in my family. I, with much more enthusiasm, support this particular raise in cigarette prices or cigarette taxes than the last one simply because it is dedicated to a purpose that many have indicated and I am sure it is true that is a cause of cancer, and all of us know that cigarette companies spend billions of dollars for advertising and it doesn't seem like it is unfair to then spend a certain amount of this money to prevent this dreaded disease coming to so many of our people, and I am sure as we continue, as we continue our research, there will be a time when many of these things can be avoided. I, too, then rise to endorse this tax on this product simply because we are really undoing something that is being done, and I don't know how anybody could, in any way, stand in opposition to this kind of approach. Thank you.