

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Horgan, followed by Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HORGAN: I would like to call the question.

SENATOR HALL: The question has been called. Do I see five seconds? There are. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SENATOR HALL: Debate is ceased. Senator Lindsay, to close on the advancement of LB 595.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Hall. I would just reiterate, I guess, and highlight a couple of points in closing. Number one, this tax ties in very directly with the harm that is being caused. It seeks to alleviate some of the harm, so that those persons who are paying the tax are going to directly benefit from that. That segment of the population which is most susceptible to the harm caused is going to benefit directly from the imposition of this tax. That was not the case on the last bill, for example. Number two, I respect Senator Schimek's position but I have to disagree with it in the sense that I just don't think we are breaking new ground. We are not, I don't think we are setting any new precedents. I think we are doing what we do in several other areas right now. We contract with private providers to perform services all the time, and we do it all the time. We do it in mental health. We do it in substance abuse. We do it in programs going on right now, as I mentioned, at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. It is something that we do on a daily basis. Child support collection is something that we've just done a huge contract on. It is just simply done. We do...we do send money into the private sector on a contract basis, and this is not an unusual program. We are not setting any bad precedents. We are not setting any precedents at all. We are simply doing what we do and extending it into a new area. That...I shouldn't say new area because we are already doing that as it stands too. We are simply providing additional funding for programs that already exist in the state. Finally, I think it is important, as we are going through this, some of the discussion on LB 22 that advanced dealt with do we increase taxes to go to the General Fund, and I have heard several people that are sounding a little bit