

be lost from the local gaming. When GTECH or whatever monopoly comes in, as they are going to do in July, they could become monopolistic, that is they could actually dictate to the Legislature what forms of gambling we could have. What would be at stake then would be the charities, the American Legion baseball, rescue squads, churches, parks and recreation, community betterment, community playhouses, Montessori schools and some scholarships. Without this amendment the racetracks could be dead. I just ask for the advancement of AM4496, and advance it to...amend it to LB 293 (sic). Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Robak. Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Not at this time, thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President, members. I rise in opposition to Senator Robak's amendment to the LR 293. The provisions that it deals with in essence could be incorporated under an amendment that I have that follows. And the amendment that I'm going to propose to the LR is one that I had talked about on General File. It basically strikes language in the constitution that is prohibitive in nature, dealing with gambling, and it would give the Legislature the authority to regulate gaming in Nebraska. It goes through and it lists, I've passed it out to you, it's AM4514. It lists a number of types of gaming activities that would be authorized only if the Legislature directed. In other words, we would have to enact statutes to allow for this. It also incorporates the provisions that were in the original LR 293, dealing with the off-track betting provisions, so that it is clear that the provisions in the original intent of that proposal are...continue to be available. With that, I rise in opposition to Senator Robak's amendment because it basically goes part of the way. And what it does is it puts in statute the...rather in the constitution the right to use video lotteries at horse tracks. I don't have any objection to that. I don't think it should be limited to that, and I believe that the local video lottery is a question that has to be decided by this body, not through a constitutional amendment that would be adopted by the voters. I think the question of a video lottery and who derives the benefit of the revenue from that is one that should be addressed here, it should not be put before the voters on a ballot issue.