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FLOOR DEBATE

January 12, 2004 LB 172, 1013-1021

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Mr. Clerk, new bills.

CLERK: Mr. President, a few new bills, if I may. (Read LB 1013-1021 by title for the first time, Legislative Journal pages 202-203.)

Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend Senator Schimek's amendment with FA1400. (Legislative Journal page 203.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on FA1400 to AM2066. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. In line 5, my amendment would strike "October 1" and insert "November 1." That would give these overburdened schools and administrators an additional month's time to figure how they're going to hand this piece of paper to the students. There have been talks of alternatives. I heard somebody mention that, even without this language that Senator Foley wants to strike from the statute, a student could go to a counselor, a school nurse if there is one, a teacher or somebody else. What is the reason for the judicial waiver, known as the judicial bypass? So that a young woman, who does not have anybody she feels confident about with whom she can discuss this matter, can go to a judge. You all may not be aware of this, but there are gossips and busybodies who work in schools. Yes, Senator Friend, I know it shocks you. He had to grab the arms of his chair and steady himself; yet, there are gossips and busybodies who call themselves counselors, teachers, and nurses. The students know who these people are sometimes; other times they don't. In the same way that one of these so-called law-abiding persons wants to carry a gun, the first crime this formerly law-abiding person commits is with the gun. So some students will not find out they've talked to a busybody who betrayed those students until after the student has taken the busybody into his or her confidence. We have set up a system that allows the privacy of the young woman to be guarded. I do not like the idea of sending them hither, dither and yonder counselor-shopping in the same way that Rush Limbaugh was