

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 11, 2005

LB 90, 211, 425
LR 112, 113, 114

CLERK: Mr. President, items for the record. Study resolutions: LR 112, by Senator Schimek; LR 113, Senator McDonald; LR 114, Senator McDonald. Senator Landis, and amendment to LB 211, to be printed; Senator Beutler, to LB 90, to be printed. (Legislative Journal pages 1482-1484.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Howard would move to amend LB 425 with AM1504. (Legislative Journal page 1456.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Howard, you're recognized to open on AM1504.

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Last week, we had considerable discussion regarding an amendment that was proposed by Senator Foley. And I admit to being a bit blindsided by his amendment, and at the time, very concerned. And my concerns were basically two. And that were...those two concerns were that we really understand the role and respect the role that the agencies that we have here in Nebraska are playing in addressing the need of the unwed mother, the prenatal needs, the counseling; and second, that we do have an unmet need for this service that's been proposed. As I understand it, the amount of money that's being allotted to this program, start-up costs included, would be \$500,000, which is no small amount of money, and that this would be over a two-year time period. I thought about this and I thought about this, and I pondered this. And having come from my background, I really feel committed to sharing my knowledge, my information on this, to give a complete picture, to give a good perspective, to be fiscally responsible, not only for state dollars, but also for federal dollars that are spent, since we all pay into taxes every year. And on Sunday, on Mother's Day, I had a realization, that here in Nebraska, here in Nebraska, there is a great unmet need pertaining to prenatal services, prenatal counseling for the mother, prenatal services for all aspects. And so I talked to Senator Foley, who was very respectful, and said he, too, shared the concern for the population that I brought up to him. And I had an amendment drafted, and went back to Senator Foley, and discussed this with him. And I know