

March 22, 1990

LB 1246

being a member of the committee I felt it was a good bill and that we should combine all three areas together. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Hannibal. Thank you. Senator Wesely. Thank you. Anyone else care to discuss the Chizek amendment to the committee amendments? Chairman Chizek, would you care to close? Thank you. The question is the adoption of the amendment to the committee amendments. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment to the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The amendment is adopted. Back to the committee amendments. Senator Labedz, would you care to discuss the committee amendments as now amended?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in strong support of LB 1246 as amended by the Judiciary Committee. It's a very important piece of legislation as amended, and probably one of the most important bills that we will pass this session to strengthen the prosecution of child abuse cases. Extending the statute of limitations for certain crimes against children from seven years from the offense to seven years from the time the victim turns 16, whichever is longer, is a very, very important part of the bill. Many children don't fully realize what has happened to them or have the confidence and knowledge to reveal their abuse until they're much older. And I certainly didn't know this, but as a member of the committee now I find that most of them were frightened for four or five or six years and would not...if this had not come about to even talk to anyone. As a member of the committee I can tell you it is a very devastating situation, and I said that in the committee hearing, and I believe strongly that the statute of limitation is a very important part of LB 1246. The people that I have talked to, that are in no way connected with the Franklin Committee or the situation that we have now, and I have several calls from children that have been abused but were frightened to come forward before, and mainly with the foster care system, there are parents that have been brave enough now to come forward, after four or five years of abuse of their children. And to me the calls that I'm receiving are almost as bad and if not worse than some of the things that we've heard in the