

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

March 8, 2000

LB 1004

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'm going to wait until you give me some time, because I don't have enough to say anything at this point.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Aguilar.

SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the body. I'd like to start off by just maybe addressing the question that Senator Chambers asked Senator Engel, because possibly he doesn't have enough information to answer that question correctly. Is there discrimination? Yes, there certainly is. My office gets at least one call daily, not just from Grand Island, but from Lexington, from Hastings, from Aurora, from all the surrounding areas, my office gets a call with claims of discrimination. Some of them are very serious. There was a situation in a city, not long ago, where a young Hispanic baby died in a hospital, and the parents honestly felt that because it was not given the proper care because they didn't speak good enough English, and they weren't thought to have the necessary insurance. Senators, that's discrimination in its simplest form. It does happen. I think this is a great bill, I think it's necessary. And I could support it, but I would really like to support it if it was equal to everyone, that's the way I could support it. I'd yield the rest of my time to Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, you have about three and a half minutes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Aguilar. This problem is one that we need to work our way through. There is plenty of time this session to pass this bill. With all that I've said, I'm not against the bill, but there are safeguards that need to be put into the bill. And I say again, the mere fact that we cannot come up with a definitive answer right now does not mean we should not consider it. What Senator Engel ought to be willing to do is say, Ernie, you put three days work into rewriting something that nobody else could do, so based on that alone, based on that alone, you're taking all this time to put my bill in an intelligible form because I couldn't do it, then I'm willing to work on some