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January 24, 2003 LB 86

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler to open on Fall47 to LB 86.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, this is an amendment that I've discussed with Senator Pedersen, and I think he's agreeable to it. Basically, it would add the words, on line 10, page 2, "except minors," so that the effect would be that under no conditions would children be allowed to go out into the streets and solicit. And I guess, being honest with you, this amendment derives from my point of view on the balance of this thing, and...which is simply that the danger that's added to individuals, especially children, in doing this, is not worth the advantage that is gained. The picking out of children, I guess, relates to the fact that I think that they are probably particularly vulnerable, especially if you don't even set an age limitation of any sort. And I think they're vulnerable for a number of reasons. But oftentimes, I think these are social events for kids. And they're out there trying to get the car wash done, and running between lanes of traffic, probably somewhat incautiously, as kids are prone to do, probably worried about how the boy or the girl 20 feet over is thinking of them, or looking at them, more than the ton or two-ton vehicles coming down the street that can hurt them at a very low rate of speed. So it made sense to me to at least be sure that there were no children out in the street. And that doesn't make me agreeable to the bill. And I know that in most cases the traffic is all slowed down, you're at a red light, and I think that's the situation that they like, crowded streets, where you're at a red light. And then as soon as the light changes, everybody runs off the street and the traffic proceeds. But I tell you a situation I've seen over time that really bothers me, even at these kinds of intersections. It's the situation where you have two lanes and a left-hand turn lane. And the left-hand turn lane may be crowded and backed up, and the lane next to the left-hand turn lane may have two or three cars and be backed up because the next street down they want to turn left, but what you have over on the right-hand side is a lane that's open and you see these guys coming along, I call it shooting the gap. It's kind of getting around all the cars quick at once because you have a clear lane on the right and you tend to go...you tend to step on the pedal a little to get, you