

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

February 26, 2003 LB 111

supportive of Senator Brashear's bill that's going to be coming along. And I think we do need to take...we can't do all these solutions at once, there are going to have to be steps, and this is one step, and his other bill is going to be another step, perhaps probably a bigger step, and I think we just all need to keep this...these things in perspective and listen...

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...to what...how these are all going to be falling in line. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I too support this bill very strongly. I believe that the people who are in possession of child pornography, they certainly have a mental problem. There is no question about that. But when it leads to a child molestation and pedophilia, which I think are the worst crimes that can possibly be committed, I can't equate this with several years ago as far as Senator Beutler talking about the penalty for possession of marijuana. I think marijuana and alcoholism, and so forth, with proper treatment I think they can be cured. But we know from our experience and what we read and what studies have shown that there is very, very little of cure, very few are ever cured from this particular disease. So as far as I'm concerned, this penalty, in my own mind, is not even severe enough. And I know we're trying to have more community-based corrections, and so forth, and I know we have to do that because nonviolent prisoners should be out of these expensive prisons because we cannot afford that anymore. Put them out, put them to work, and force them into rehab so they become productive citizens and pay their own way. But these particular people, if I would...I would not trade anything for what they do. I would not compromise with them because I had a cu...I talked to a judge one time about my cure for those type of people, and he said I don't disagree with you but according to law we cannot do that. So, anyhow, I do support the law, I mean the bill, rather, sorry.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Engel. Senator Chambers.