

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

March 3, 2003

LB 54

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Erdman, do you think a person who is gay could be a suitable foster parent?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Senator Chambers, I think that the proposal before us determines the ability to care for their child. I'm not sure if that is a...I know what you're asking. I'm not sure if I can specifically answer because I don't know if that's a limiting factor on whether or not they could care for the individual or not.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's why I'm asking for your opinion, and it's not to put you on the spot. If you haven't thought it through and would prefer not to answer, I won't think that you're evading. And had I gotten up here in time to discuss it on Senator Raikes' amendment, there could have been broader discussion. But with time being what it is, I've got to just kind of ask those questions.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Erdman.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So you've given about the best answer you're able to give at this point?

SENATOR ERDMAN: Yeah, I haven't thought through that, Senator Chambers, but I...well, I'm not sure if I could give you an answer by the time we get done debating this, depending upon what your time line is.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. I would like to ask Senator Jensen a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Jensen.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Jensen, do you think that being a gay man or a lesbian woman should disqualify such person from being a foster parent?

SENATOR JENSEN: Well, this bill doesn't define parenthood at all. All this is talking about...