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FLOOR DEBATE

March 11, 2003      LB 688

altogether sure is good for athletes in terms of their lifelong activities and the effect of them lifelong, but you know, I think we got into it because either us or somebody got an edge, because we knew how to do it better. And so for a time we did it better and had an edge, and then everybody caught up. So now everybody does it because they don't want to get behind somebody else. It's kind of like economic incentives state by state, you know? First, somebody does it, and then everybody has to do it to keep up, and then no one knows how to get out of the whole thing when it doesn't make any sense anymore. And I think this conditioning thing may be an example of that. You know, couldn't our athletes compete just as energetically and with just as much fun and with just as much interest on the part of the fans without spending the entire year lifting weights?

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: There's nothing wrong with lifting weights for health purposes, and probably everybody should be doing it to some extent. But as a requirement for athletics, when you consider that the requirement then takes additional time away from being a student, and that that additional time is really not available because of the large load of time that otherwise is put upon the athlete, then it becomes, it seems to me, an expendable kind of item. Up until the last couple of decades, athletes used to compete quite well without year-round weight training and conditioning. And they still could compete, and we'd still all love to see them, and we'd still all cheer for our schools. The passion would be there. The excitement would be there. There would still be 75,000 people in the stands. And they wouldn't have to put all this time in on conditioning.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Chambers, on the Foley amendment to the Beutler amendment to LB 688.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the comments of both Senator Foley and Senator Beutler demonstrate the rationale for the bill that I'm offering. The point I'm making is that the NCAA must liberalize its rules to provide more assistance of a financial nature to these athletes.