

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

March 11, 2003 LB 688

football program. So while some people...you're not...but while some people might attack the football program and say, what about female athletes programs and the minor sports, without football, there would be none of those; not one would exist.

SPEAKER BROMM: And is it fair to say that perhaps the primary purpose or objective of this bill is not to enact stipends at this point, because it won't become effective for that purpose, but to raise the level of discussion about what is appropriate in terms of the way the athletes are...the restrictions that are put on the athletes in certain ways, as opposed to the benefits that they bring in, not only to the athletic program, but to the entire state and community that is affected by having a successful program?

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SPEAKER BROMM: Is that a fair statement?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, and I'll make it even stronger. I don't want this bill to result in stipends being paid. I want it to put pressure on the NCAA to change its rules, because that's how it should be handled anyway. But the won't change those rules without outside pressure, and this is the way, in my opinion, we can provide it.

SPEAKER BROMM: And I put my light on again, because I may have a few more questions. But this amendment I strongly support. One of the objections that I had and that I raised yesterday was that I thought this sent a message, if we did it in the original form, to other athletes, and to particularly women athletes, that we didn't think that they deserved any extra stipend either, if that became effective. And I strongly feel that if that program were to become effective, that they should receive a stipend. They work just as hard. It's not their fault that they don't...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SPEAKER BROMM: ...have 80,000 people come to their contest. Thank you.