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FLOOR DEBATE

March 11, 2003      LB 688

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Brashear, your light was, or is, on. Did you wish to close...there are no further lights on, Senator Brashear. You wish to close on...he waives closing on his amendment. The question before the body is adoption of AM0759, offered by Senator Brashear to LB 688. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We're voting on the adoption of the Brashear amendment to LB 688. Have you all voted who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Brashear's amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: AM0759 was adopted. (Visitor introduced.) On to discussion of the bill itself to E & R Initial. Senator Mines.

SENATOR MINES: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, I too rise in support of LB 688. And after a great deal of discussion, a great deal of conversation, I've come to the conclusion that, why not? Senator Chambers has done a tremendous amount of research. He is passionate about this issue. And I think through the question-answer with Senator Brashear, we were all assured that this is in fact an important bill to the Senator, as well as the state of Nebraska. We've been caught up in the minutia of what happens, and caught up in too many of the presupposed ideas that would come with this...the passage of this bill. We've heard presumptions, and too many thoughts on the ills that may befall our athletic department. Interesting, last night I spoke with a former member of that athletic department and asked, how many Division I schools' athletic departments are self-sufficient like Nebraska? How many schools in fact pay for the scholarships, pay the university for the scholarships of the student athletes? How many universities are in fact fully funding their programs? And that individual said there are less than ten universities in this country. And I think that can speak to both sides. What it says to me is, chances of another four states in our conference passing a similar or like bill are really pretty small. And I think, as Senator Chambers has said several times, that in fact doesn't expect any other...many other states...this will go no further in the legislative realm. What this does is clearly send a