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March 12, 2003      LB 148

SENATOR CUDABACK:      About two and a half minutes to three minutes.

SENATOR FRIEND:      I...that would be fine. I can probably...maybe I can get through this. If not, I'll continue, if that's okay, later. Thank you, Senator Landis. Members of the Legislature, I, obviously, I rise in support of LB 148, the enhancement to the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act. Before I took the oath of office, I...a lot of...I received a few calls, I shouldn't say a lot of calls, but I received a few calls from some folks, some of them in the district, some of them not, that were very interested in what we could do...what I could do, what we could do, as a Legislature, to deal with child support type of issues. And I had a lot of...I have a lot of answers for a lot of different questions, but a lot of canned answers, and a lot of the things on taxation answers for issues like economic development and even gambling, things like that. The answers rolled off the tongue fairly easily. What I didn't have answers for these women, and in some cases men, was how to deal with the type of issues that they were talking about, child support issues, children's issues, in particular, in general I should say. I realized quickly that when we started doing some research that this bill, in a lot of different ways, might provide some of those answers. And to me the bill is efficient. It's an effective way to bring credible answers to the questions like providing universal and uniform rules for the enforcement of family support orders, providing and promoting clearer guidance to state support agencies with regard to procedures. In short, what I can really say is this bill, I think, empowers Nebraska. It empowers Nebraska and it empowers the parents. I think it clarifies rules and regulations. I think it's a good bill.

SENATOR CUDABACK:      One minute.

SENATOR FRIEND:      It's a practical bill and, to me, it's a bill that will make a difference in the lives of mothers. It will make a difference in the lives of fathers, and I think, most importantly, it's a bill that will make a difference in the lives of Nebraska children. And even if it's not plural, if