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April 8, 2003 LB 513

SENATOR BYARS: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You've heard the opening on FA1269, offered by Senator Chambers to LB 513. Now open for discussion on the Chambers amendment. Those wishing to speak are Senator Foley, Senator Don Pederson, Senator Byars, and Senator Chambers. Senator Foley.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. President and members. It's always interesting to me to see which bills attract controversy and which do not. And quite frankly, I'm surprised that this one is attracting as much controversy as it is. I think the Education Committee studied this bill rather thoroughly, and reported it out, and I'm happy that they did. I find the bill to be very reasonable. All the bill does is require the university and the higher education institutions to provide information to students, information that will be very valuable to them, and then, with a very soft requirement, encourage them to get a particular vaccination, with a very reasonable opt-out provision. It's not a mandate in the true sense of the term. It certainly is a very soft requirement, with an easy way to get out of it. I think Senator Chambers does make a very good point that if this information is helpful to some students, why not give it to all? And I would agree with him that we probably ought to make sure that every student gets this information, even those that do not live on campus. Unfortunately, I can't support the Chambers amendment because it goes beyond that and it strikes this soft requirement that I think is an essential part of the bill. So I'm hoping that Senator Chambers and Senator Byars can work this out, because I think they've both made some good points. And so for now, at least, I'm going to oppose the FA1269, offered by Senator Chambers, and I'm going to support the green copy of the bill as amended by the Bourne amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Foley. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature,