

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

May 19, 2003

LB 598

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I believe that the Legislature should do what the Legislature believes it ought to do. But having been here as long as I have, I know that a few letters from a few cranks do take the wind out of some people's sails. Whether that should be or not is beside the point. I do not want to see a lot of red lights on the board indicating that the Legislature has lost its resolve. But one thing I do want to call attention to. When the people who were pushing that constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriages were testifying at a hearing that the Secretary of State had, the ones who were leading that said they were doing it to get around me, that I was going to try to get something done through the Legislature. And I pointed out, you all are really giving me more status and stature than you should. Because there's another proposal out there to enshrine me in the constitution through term limits. You're admitting that one black man for whom you have contempt must be dealt with as no person has ever been dealt with as an individual in the history of this state or any other state. I have not been able to find in any state where two constitutional amendments were admittedly sought and obtained to counteract one man. And I'm the one who was mentioned in both cases. But here's what is interesting. The ringleaders of both of those efforts have left Nebraska. The woman who made money and her living off gay bashing went down to Virginia or someplace where there are more fertile pastures, because she has milked this cow for all she could get out of it. The guy who spearheaded the effort for term limits moved to Colorado. And you know what I think both of them got to considering? Any state where the people are dumb enough to follow me is a state I don't want to live in. So after getting what they wanted, they got right out of here. What it really shows is that the public is not often well-versed on issues presented to them. After I'm out of this Legislature, I do not expect to die immediately thereafter. So I will continue to be a voter. And if somebody arises in the district that I live in who is doing the job, I as a voter would want to put that person back down here as many times as he or she was willing to come down here. So there can be an argument made,