

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

March 23, 2004      LB 1241

responsibility, and you're doing something that the kid's natural parents wouldn't be responsible for. That's how I am viewing this matter right now, absent somebody's input that would indicate that the legal circumstances are different. But I think we need to have a good conversation on this. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK:      Thank you, Senator Beutler.      Senator Hartnett, on the FA1584.

SENATOR HARTNETT:      Mr. President, members of the body, I'm a member of the Business and Labor Committee. I supported this amendment and I maybe disagree a little bit with Senator Beutler, because I have children and I think if they're in an accident and they're responsible and they don't have insurance, it's going to come to me, as the parent. We're talking about \$5,000, and maybe...and I agree with what Senator Preister said, you know, are we starting something that's new? I think it's a claim I think that was legitimate. This was a ward of the state. That's the state...that's...state is...I think the state is responsible in this particular case, and maybe there should be some coverage by the state that they have with their foster care. But I think it's...I think it's a right thing that we should do as a body, because as Senator Preister, and he's served on the Business and Labor Committee longer than I, this is the first time that we have either changed things that come from the administration, DAS, as far as a recommendation. So I am going to oppose Senator Wehrbein's amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK:      Thank you, Senator Hartnett.      Senator Chambers, on the amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS:      Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm a member of the committee, but I wasn't there the day that this claim was approved, and I don't think it ought to be. On that committee, sometimes I am like Simon Lagree. I'm not swayed by tears in that capacity. I'm there to review a claim to see if there's a basis for the state to pay it. If a person is going to try to get some money from the state, they should go to court if there's a question about it and have the liability established and then a judgment is entered and the state acts from there. We have claims that we pay because they were