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FLOOR DEBATE

March 23, 2004 LB 1241

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Burling.

SENATOR BURLING: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the body, I thought maybe I, as a member of the Business and Labor Committee, being the one that voted against this particular issue that we're discussing this morning about the car, maybe I should explain my vote on it. I, too, heard the testimony and I felt sorry for the lady. My heart went out to her. But as a policymaker, I thought about the fact that there are thousands of state wards in Nebraska in foster homes, in group settings, that they're wards of the state but the state has no control at all over their daily activity and their comings and goings. And so I could just see that, without any more documentation that we had at that hearing, basically going on the lady's word, even though she may have been honest, we didn't know at that time, I thought as a policymaker we should have more information than we had to pay that claim and that the procedure ought to take a different route than just a citizen walking into the committee and pleading a case. We didn't have sufficient law enforcement reports, pictures, documentation, no lawyer, no court action, and I thought we would be establishing a precedent that we shouldn't be going that direction. So I support the Wehrbein amendment, and thank you for bringing it up, Roger, because it's been an important discussion as we look at policy in the future in this area. Return my time to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Burling. Senator Engel, followed by Senator Vrtiska and Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR ENGEL: I'd like to call the question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The question before the body is, shall debate cease on FA1584? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. The question before the body is to cease debate. The question before the body, FA1584. Have you all voted who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.