

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

March 23, 2004 LB 943

deal with it until they are a little bit older. And sometimes it just takes a long time through a healing process to be able to come to confront their offender. The person that...probably the issue that touched me the most was the layer of...another layer of guilt that comes to these people when they realize, because they haven't come forward, that that person is still out there victimizing usually another family member, probably a younger sibling, a cousin, someone else in the family that they move to after assaulting them. So what this would do would add several provisions and they're in Section 29-110; sexual assault of a child, sexual assault in the first degree, and sexual assault in the second or third degree when the victim is under 16 years of age at the time of the offense. Currently, we do not have a statute of limitations on treason, murder, arson and forgery, and this would be another section that would be added to those, or another area where the statute of limitations would be lifted from those crimes against children. This was supported by a large number of groups and victims' groups and advocacy groups. The primary group that brought it is housed at Lutheran Family Services in Omaha and it's a group called Parents United. And since I've introduced this bill, and actually even prior to it, I've heard from a number of people who have been victims and a number of people who have worked with victims. And there was no opposition to this bill and I, too, was surprised and happy to see this on the agenda today, and my assumption is, because this came out of the Judiciary Committee without any dissenting votes, that it was allowed to be considered at this point in time. With that, I will close and I will also be discussing another bill that will come as part of the committee amendments that Senator Brashear will be introducing. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. You've heard the opening on LB 943. There are committee amendments, as stated by the Clerk. Senator Brashear, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, you're recognized to open on AM2935.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. The Judiciary Committee amendment to LB 940...LB 943, pardon me, would clarify that changes made to the statute of limitations in the bill apply to offenses committed prior to the