

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

March 25, 2004      LB 172

important, but I also think that most people would agree that it should not be the only kind of education that's out there because it's not fool-proof and it's not 100 percent effective. There are many young people in our society who are not going to be abstinent, no matter how much we encourage them to do so. And so I would never...I would never be in favor of abstinence education if that were the only education that we were putting out there. So I do think there is common ground. You know, Senator Chambers was right. All Senator Chambers and I really wanted to do was to have our final say on this bill, which we both believe is not good public policy. But things just keep being said that need to be addressed or there needs to be a response. And I guess, if I'm not mistaken, Senator Foley, Senator Crosby did originally vote for...did vote for the original bill, which included the amendment regarding this policy. And I don't know that she would have voted for the original amendment, but I'm sure that she voted for the bill. The one thing about it is that keeps being said is no other states do this. Well, if you're going to use that argument then you better be prepared to lose the Unicameral; you better be prepared to lose public power in this state; you better be prepared to lose some other things that are unique to this state. That argument doesn't hold any water for me. What's important here is not whether any other state does it but whether it is the right thing to do or not, and I believe that it is never wrong to give young people information, particularly when it is about a law that the state has passed that directly affects them. I don't think there's anything wrong with that, but that's all been said before. I'm not going to prolong it. Just like to say that even though we had a state law and we still have a state law on the books that says schools shall provide this information, we know, from discussions with constituents and even colleagues on the floor, that schools weren't doing it now anyway. They were just ignoring the law. So don't tell me that this is necessarily going to get done anyway if the Legislature doesn't mandate it. There will be a few schools. Hopefully in my own town, the Lincoln Public Schools, will provide that information, but don't kid yourself. It's not going to be provided unless we say it needs to be provided, and even then it's not...