

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 13, 2004      LB 625

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

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

SENATOR MINES: 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? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We're voting on ceasing debate on a motion to return. The question before the body is cease debate on the motion to return. Have you all voted who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Debate does cease. Senator Chambers, you're recognized to close on your motion to return.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I will underline a point again. If somebody had brought a bill that did not address a compelling issue that had to be resolved, and the passage of that bill could result in the loss of a half million dollars in federal money, that bill would not be passed. Senator Brown, I will say again, did not point out any misconduct on the part of these testers, did not point out any misconduct on the part of NEOC. This is something that realtors want so that the testing program can be weakened. Under this language, not just the final investigative report is given, but all information that flows from an investigation. She pointed out that it involves conciliation. That HUD letters says that information relative to conciliation is not to be made available. So what comfort do you derive from her saying, if HUD decertifies NEOC, she'll bring a bill immediately to try to get the certification back? If the decertification occurs, if the \$500,000 or more is lost, what then? You bring a bill and say, oops? I see a crippling of the NEOC. And the NEOC will not be whole by the Legislature during these tight times, appropriating \$500,000 in General Fund money to undo the damage. This bill is not compelling enough to justify that. The issues