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FLOOR DEBATE

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that this bill attempts to address are very serious. The undermining of the program that this bill seeks to undermine is very effective. Otherwise, there would not be an attempt to destroy it, and there would not be an attempt made to accomplish that at the risk of losing \$500,000. That may seem in some circles a mere pittance. But for an association, an organization, an agency such as the NEOC, which is cash-strapped anyway, the money is significant. The work that is being done is significant. And I'm hoping that you will do the right thing and vote to return this bill. There has been no compelling reason given as to why this bill must be enacted into law. For the information of those who received the package I handed out and looked at it, I asked Mr. Butz to do some looking at this and get me the most solid information he could, because the others who had commented on it had not been very thorough or, in my mind, accurate in what they stated about the position of the NEOC relative to HUD's requirements and what a bill like this might result in. I talked to the director, and he said he was pressured into writing an e-mail, that he does believe that money will be at risk, he does believe...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...that the NEOC may be decertified. In that letter you got, the writer pointed out why HUD people did not want to state, other than off the record or anonymously, not for attribution, the problems in this bill. They may be the ones called on to review the NEOC. Senator Brown herself admitted that passing this bill is automatically going to trigger such a review. And why do they review? To determine if there should be decertification. If this law as it's written mandates the release of information which HUD says should not be released, the decertification will occur. The question is, in Senator Brown's mind, is whether HUD will be playing and will not take the money. In view of the fact they sent a warning letter that is being disregarded, I don't see any mitigating...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...conduct by the state. Thank you, Mr. President. I would ask that we all check in.