

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

February 1, 2005 LB 89

player talking...I wonder what becomes of all of those poor people who obviously are facing this, because if they'll come after me, I know what they'll do to the poor, who have no money to hire a good lawyer. How many of those people are in jail right now who should not be there? Too many times people such as myself come after the fact, after a person has been harmed, and I do not have the wherewithal to rescue everybody who has been unfairly or unjustly treated. When a program is created, as is the case here, I want to build into that program the protections and the safeguards that the supporters of the program ought not to object to if their intentions are as pure as they say. If I were practicing law, I'm held...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to the same standard, whether I receive a fee or not, as is any lawyer practicing in that area of the law. The amount of the fee means nothing. It's presumed by the courts that I have ordinary competency when it comes to being a lawyer and representing a client. And if there's a client with a case beyond my ability, I either refuse that case or assure the client that I'm going to partner up with somebody who is able to advise me so that that client's interests will be properly served. I'm not going to let the dentists or anybody else get by with a lower standard or lesser standard than lawyers. We're dealing with the physical health and well-being of these poor people. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. On with discussion. Senator Aguilar.

SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Senator Chambers is certainly making some excellent points this morning. I would like to go back to some of the discussion earlier when he asked the question, why don't dentists in Nebraska provide pro bono care? I'd like to assure him that they certainly do. In Grand Island, my wife is a director of a free clinic, and within that clinic they have at least seven or eight local dentists who do nothing but pro bono work for the clinic. They handle all the emergency cases that come into the clinic, and they do this at no charge, on their own time. We also have a