

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

February 1, 2005 LB 89

to reiterate some of the...some of the information that I shared with the body in my opening statement. The last mission of mercy project that was done in the state of Kansas on the Pittsburgh State University campus allowed 140 dentists, 140 dentists, to volunteer their time for a two-and-a-half day period, provided 2,158 patients with over \$900,000 in free dental care, over 2,000 individuals who were underserved. I think all of us, particularly those who work very closely in public health, have seen oral health as one of the biggest issues affecting the people of our country for some time. We have had a tendency to take it for granted in light of hearing about other things, such as heart, such as cancer, but oral health and what poor oral health leads to as far as deterioration of the rest of the body and have so many other effects that this is important. This is an important piece of legislation. This is not a piece of legislation that's brought lightly; that it's not a piece of legislation brought to benefit a group of people, i.e., the practicing dentists of this state or any other state that would come here to practice on a mission of mercy. This is legislation brought to change our licensure law to be exactly like that of physicians and surgeons who come to practice in this state, and allow dentists to come and help underserved people. I would yield, Senator Chambers, the remainder of my time to you so that you could comment, if you would like, on prior discussions.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Chambers, about two and a half minutes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Byars. Thank you, Mr. President. I listened to Senator Loudon, and there's a point I have to make here for everybody who talks about what the dental colleges do, and their students. Those schools are located in the state of Nebraska. They're not going out of state. And I believe that when these students are operating, there are people overseeing and supervising what they do. They don't just turn these students loose. There is a program which allows senior law students to handle cases, but they must do it under the direct supervision of a licensed attorney. You don't just turn these people loose. So that would take care of what they're saying about the dental schools. I'm not disparaging