

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

March 2, 2005

LB 264

absolutely have to address. The more that we can invest in prevention programs, the less we're going to have to spend and the more likely we are to have children who can live long and happy lives. And so I'm glad that we are able to do this right now, and I support Senator Howard's bill. And I would yield the rest of my time to Senator Schimek.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, and thank you, Senator Brown. I failed to say why I think this bill could bring huge results. In my neighborhood a number of years ago, there was a little boy who was born with Down's Syndrome and the Lincoln Public Schools has a program that calls for early intervention and they go into the hospital when that baby is born, if there is a diagnosis. They go into the home as soon as possible. They work with the parents on exercises and brain stimulation and all of that kind of thing because, as we know now, children really respond at very early ages to this kind of stimulation. The upshot is that this little boy went through our public schools here in Lincoln and I think that it makes a difference, of course, about the diagnosis, but I think that early intervention made a huge difference in that one life that I observed and I think that the provisions of this bill can also make a huge difference in the lives of any children who are given those kinds of services and that kind of attention. So I just wanted to say that. I really think that the bill and the intent of the bill can bring very good results. So once again, thank you, Senator Howard.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek and Senator Brown. On with discussion. Senator Kopplin, followed by Senator Schrock and others.

SENATOR KOPPLIN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I want to thank Senator Howard for bringing this issue to the Legislature for action. We've all read the stories. We're repulsed by the abuse, the neglect, the poverty that is inflicted on our most fragile of citizens. Sometimes the papers play it big. Children die from abuse and we're angry, angry that such things can occur in our neighborhoods, on