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FLOOR DEBATE

March 23, 2005 LB 111

introduced.) On with discussion of the Stuhr amendment. Senator Smith, followed by Senator Stuhr, Stuthman, Thompson, and Bourne. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in support of LB 111, Senator Bourne's efforts relating to the abduction of children, primarily, but I think it would apply to folks of all ages. If Senator Bourne would yield to some questions for clarification.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bourne, would you yield?

SENATOR BOURNE: Certainly.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Bourne, you mentioned prevention of abduction. I would speculate that the thrust of the bill is more reactive than proactive relating to prevention. In terms of setting up the clearinghouse of information, you've determined apparently that such items are missing or lacking within state government right now. Is that accurate?

SENATOR BOURNE: Absolutely accurate. Thirty-eight states have clearinghouses similar to what I'm proposing here. And you are exactly right, it is reactive. After a person or an individual is missing, this...the studies show that the more information put out in front of the public the more likely that individual is to be recovered or discovered. The one thing that is prospective, if you will, is the line that Senator Stuhr is asking to take out, and that is the developing training programs to assist in the prevention of kidnapping. So you're right, it is reactive. There is one small element that tries to prevent it and that, again, is what Senator Stuhr is trying to take out.

SENATOR SMITH: And you mentioned 58,200 children missing or abducted. Was that in Nebraska?

SENATOR BOURNE: No, that's nationwide. Every 30...the statistics I have, every 37 seconds a child disappears. There was a study done, and I don't, Senator Smith, I could tell you, I just put my paperwork down, it's called the NISMART-2 study that was done in 1999, and that's the most recent statistics we