

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

March 31, 2005      LB 4

SENATOR HOWARD:    Sadly, yes, sir, I am.

SENATOR CHAMBERS:    So if a child was in a dangerous situation, wherever he or she had been placed, and had run away, that child would be escaping danger, not endangering himself or herself. Isn't that true?

SENATOR HOWARD:    You're absolutely right. But what we...if I could go a little further with that?

SENATOR CHAMBERS:    Sure.

SENATOR HOWARD:    What would need to be looked at, in terms of returning that child from the state the child had run to, would be where the child would be placed upon returning to Nebraska. Because I can assure you that the state the child had run to would not be willing to keep the child there.

SENATOR CHAMBERS:    Suppose the child had run to a relative in another state?

SENATOR HOWARD:    That's a very good question. If a child had run to a relative in another state, if the state that the child had gone to would be willing to do a home study and provide that information, would be willing to supervise that child in that placement, would assure Nebraska that that child was safe, there is a possibility that the court would agree and the department would agree that child could remain there while it was, let's say, being sorted out.

SENATOR CHAMBERS:    But if the receiving state--I'll call it that for convenience--didn't want to get involved, that child would be returned to Nebraska,...

SENATOR HOWARD:    Yes,...

SENATOR CHAMBERS:    ...under the compact. Isn't that true?

SENATOR HOWARD:    ...that child would be. And chances are very likely that that state would request that child be returned to Nebraska until a home study would be completed. That would be