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March 31, 2005 LB 4

SENATOR HOWARD: Well, sir, I understand what you're saying, and you make a very good point. However, if a child is a state ward, chances are that the decisions that they make on the run are not always in their own benefit.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then why don't we put in language that would say, if by so doing has endangered himself or herself? Would you be in favor of that kind of language?

SENATOR HOWARD: My question would be, who would make that judgment call?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Whoever is going to make judgments about anything related to the welfare of this child. That issue could be presented to the court that would have jurisdiction. And it would compel them to look at the circumstances in which that child is living, which the court does not have to do now, which it does not do now. There are guardians ad litem who do not look after the welfare of these children. And these are things I'm not speculating about; I know. And I know some children and families who have been victimized because of the very things I'm talking about. Now, if we adopt this language in the compact as it exists here, it will be presumed that the mere act of running away endangers the child. That is true, isn't it, with the existing language?

SENATOR HOWARD: Well, I would...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The mere act of running away will be presumed to endanger the child.

SENATOR HOWARD: I would agree with what you say, and I would also agree that that does endanger the child.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, in line 13, on page 2, it talks about each state being responsible for the safe return of juveniles who have run away from home, and in so doing have left their state of residence. Now we're just talking about children having run away from home, aren't we?