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SENATOR HOWARD: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, if they haven't done anything wrong, why should they have to be returned to their home?

SENATOR HOWARD: The children that this bill would apply to would be children who are wards of the state and under the court's jurisdiction, not a random child. That's my understanding. Those are the only children that I have worked with under this bill.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then why don't we strike this language, starting in line 12: "The compacting states also recognize that each state is responsible for the safe return of juveniles who have run away from home and in so doing have left their state of residence"? That doesn't say anything about being under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court.

SENATOR HOWARD: My concern with removing sections of this would be that we need the cooperation of the state the child goes to in order to make arrangements, to work hand in hand, as I said before, with the case manager in, say, Nebraska, in our state. Because we...I can't travel to Arkansas to make arrangements to have that child in foster care in Arkansas, or to make arrangements to have that child transported from wherever shelter that child is to an airport to catch a flight out.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Howard, under this compact, what is the age at which a person is deemed to be a juvenile?

SENATOR HOWARD: An age...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What is the upper age?

SENATOR HOWARD: The upper...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right.

SENATOR HOWARD: Sir, the upper limit in most states is...in many states, is 18. Here in Nebraska, it's 19.