

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

March 31, 2005 LB 4

need an updated compact. Nebraska stays in the old compact, we're in the old, outmoded compact. If we move to the new compact, which provides for a lot of issues that make it more effective, safer, and have better tracking, we move to the new method, then we adopt this bill and we become part of the states that are moving to the new method. Then there have been 23. When they get to be 25, we will be in a position, we will be part of the group that's moving to the new method. If you don't vote for this bill, we're part of the old team, and we don't get to be at the table as the decisions are made in the new regard. We also put our staff, who work in these areas every day, trying to figure these things out, in the old system. We keep them in the old system. This is a way to improve what we're doing, and also be part of that improvement by being in the group of 35 states that are making those changes. The system is outmoded. It's outdated. We should be moving to the new system. Now, the language of this bill is what was drafted and adopted by the people from the system, along with state legislators--and I was one of those people--who came together to try to figure out, how can we do it better? The...a lot of this has to be left to that compact effort. And it's not a bad thing that we have compacts. We have lots of compacts between states. And, yes, we do have to work together with other states. But we're talking about moving kids from one state to another for a whole variety of reasons. We're talking about encouraging that cooperation, using the best practices, making sure they get the treatment, making sure they're supervised, and making sure that the philosophies that we have behind helping them become safe, helping them get over some of the issues that they may have, either due to...maybe not due to their own fault, but maybe because of certain disabilities. That's the purpose of having the compact, because there isn't a way to do that otherwise. Otherwise, it's a separate negotiation our staff has to get into with every state. This just puts the framework in place, and it updates it after 50 years. So my contention would be, it's better to go and get on the team with the people who are moving to the new compact than it is to stay in the outmoded 50-year-old compact that's fraught with problems. Now, if that...because we're bringing in a lot of other issues about the whole...