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

April 7, 2005 LB 548

commend you for that, and don't want you to lose sight of that, as I don't think anyone that is receiving funds, anyone that's a recipient of services, they remember. They know what we've done. So, members of the body, take a moment to pat yourselves on the back and look as you go out in years...the years of the future, what you can do to make absolutely certain that we protect and we preserve what we have done in this body with significant dollars. And I thank you all very, very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Foley. Senator Foley.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in opposition to Senator Chambers' amendment. Although I...Senator Chambers has spoken with some degree of skepticism as to whether or not all of the institutions who receive funding through this program have an explicit written policy on sexual orientation and I think he's right, and maybe I'll be proven wrong and maybe he'll be proven wrong, but I think he's right that they do not have an explicit written policy giving protected class status on the basis of sexual orientation. That's a complex legal question, and a question that the Judiciary Committee has been struggling with and wrestling with for some time now, and have not reached a definitive conclusion, and that's why some of these bills that have been offered to the Judiciary Committee have not advanced, because it's not quite as simple as some would like us to believe it is. And I think that if those who advocate this amendment or other amendments like it that we'll likely see, have a burden, have a burden of proving that there's a problem that has to be addressed, that there's a practice of discrimination that must be remedied. And we haven't seen that proof We've seen some paid in the Judiciary Committee. advocates come in and express their views, but we've not seen the proof that there's a pattern of discrimination that's unfair, unjust, and in practice today, particularly with respect to the institutions that receive funding under this program. And that burden is not with me; it's with Senator Chambers. again, I want to emphasize I think he is correct with respect to the existence of these explicit written policies. I don't think those institutions have that, and I don't think we ought to it on them through this amendment. impose Thank you,