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

April 26, 2005 LB 117

to be the most innocuous way to do it, the way we chose. other part of the problem is, as you know, Oklahoma has a more restrictive form of this law, and the first year they had it in place one of the pharmacies, of course, violated the amount that they were supposed to sell by 100 times and they were actually charged, arrested and charged, with selling more than they were supposed to. So that created a lot of turmoil between the pharmacies. I think the ideal situation, as you talked about, is a central database, and a lot of that was in some of our original legislation as well. Right now, that's not very feasible because too many rural areas don't have access to that type of equipment, and some of them are really, you know, kind of a one-horse town, if you will, and they're very limited on what they have for pharmacies and different businesses that sell that drug. So it's just not feasible at this point in time. certainly think it's something we need to look at in the future. want to talk a little about why we're doing this here. As some of you may be aware, a little over a year ago Oklahoma had a huge meth manufacturing problem, and so they instituted these restrictions and tightened up their laws. And this is...I'm going to read now from an article in the Lincoln Journal Star this morning that kind of tells exactly my feelings and why we're doing this. Said, since Oklahoma's strict anti-meth law went into effect about a year ago, the number of meth labs in the state dropped by almost 80 percent, according to police sources; however, the number of meth labs just across the state line in Kansas skyrocketed. Other states in the region have followed Oklahoma's lead. Kansas, Iowa, and South Dakota this year passed stricter laws. Similar bills are pending in Colorado and Missouri. Nebraska cannot afford to allow itself, by inaction, to became a...become a haven for meth labs. Nebraska needs to have its own anti-meth law on the books by the time this session ends. A truer statement can't be put to us right now. That's exactly the scenario. We have to do something. We have to do something now. You're probably going to hear some opposition, and I'm hoping all of you will listen carefully, because I think the arguments we're going to have on the side of this legislation are far going to outweigh some of the opposition arguments. We're talking about something that is a life and death situation. Meth labs are out of control. Children are dying, as well as adults are dying, because of this