

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

April 27, 2005 LB 117

stating he believes in health of persons. But he said, how far are you going to go if you agree to put materials behind the counter? Are you going to put sharps, razor blades? Are you going to put rubbing alcohol? Are you going to put aspirin, which can be taken in overdoses, you know, to injure people's health? How far are you going to go? When will this stop? It's my son, who's a Wallgreens manager in Detroit. And he just...he's very supportive of the movement against meth. But he said, when does this stop? When a person sees people in protective clothing going in and cleaning up a meth lab site, here they're in protective gear, but yet people choose, make this choice to ingest something that is so hazardous to their health. Then there are houses. What is the condition after the meth lab? I was reading some statistics here. Some states, local law enforcement officials estimate that one lab can cost between \$3,000 to \$10,000, with as few costing as many as \$150,000 for cleanup. As it stands now, the hazardous waste cleanup costs are being entirely absorbed by taxpayers. It's extremely unfair. Some cleanup costs for a two-bedroom home is around \$6,500, plus additional fees to prove the property is clean. Some owners decide to forego this price tag, however, by either demolishing the property, or abandoning it. I remember back when this first started, you know, there were anhydrous tanks that people would tap and get the ammonia out of there to cook. And I always thought, as a farmer's daughter, you know, how dangerous this was. And then the people began locking the tanks. (Cough) Excuse me. I may have to take Senator Chambers up on his offer. Then many materials are dumped out into areas and dumped into rivers, streams, or just abandoned. And of course, that is a cost there also. Statistics about meth: Methamphetamine kills...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR PRICE: ...by causing heart failure, brain damage, and stroke. It causes more damage to the brain than alcohol, heroin, or cocaine. Women are more likely to use meth than cocaine. Meth users are the hardest to treat of all drug users. The average meth cook annually teaches ten other people how to make meth. It's a pyramid scheme. Every pound of meth produced leaves...every pound of meth leaves behind five pounds of toxic