

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

April 27, 2005 LB 117

change. And the fact is, some of these folks go into our prisons and find a way to continue using, so I've been told. I can't substantiate that with any direct facts. But it would be hard to keep a product like that out of a prison when you've got a large population of nonviolent, meth-addicted offenders. Drug courts, I would imagine--and Senator Aguilar, I'd want you to comment on this--I think would appreciate the higher penalty, so that they have more leverage. And Senator Aguilar, I'd yield any time to you to maybe comment on that, because I know drug courts are something that are very important to you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Aguilar, about 1, 30.

SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you, Senator Flood. And you're exactly right. I do. You know, anything that we can do to bring more people to the table, to get involved with drug courts, is exactly what needs to happen. Because you know what, it works. Drug court works. Locking them up, throwing away the key, that's old-fashioned. That doesn't work anymore. We've got to do it through a treatment program. That's the only thing that helps with people addicted to methamphetamine and other drugs like cocaine. It works fantastically.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR AGUILAR: And I see more and more efforts going throughout the state to expand that, and I'm happy for that. Thank you, Senator Flood, and Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Flood. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, if I had hair that is as delicate as that on the heads of my colleagues, I'd be tearing it out of my head right now as I listen to these discussions. Members of the Legislature, it would be good to go back and read some of the debate at the Constitutional Convention, when they were talking about the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and some of these other things that relate to criminal punishments and the creation of crimes. Legislatures have the power and authority