

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

April 27, 2005 LB 117

wanted to respond a little bit. Senator Louden mentioned the number of amendments on this bill, and I just...I want you to recognize that this is the committee amendment that the committee, with the exception of Senator Chambers, who I don't know if he voted no or if he wasn't there, but it came out unanimously with the exception of Senator Chambers. This is the committee amendment that Senator Chambers has divided, so this is one amendment that is in seven parts. And I just want you to recognize, Senator Louden and some of my other rural colleagues, that the original iteration of this bill--the green copy that was put forth--said that you had to be a pharmacist to sell this, and a number of other states are doing that. And I recognized, the committee recognized, the hardship that would put on our rural colleagues and we took that provision out. So I don't think that this is any hardship. You know, it might be an inconvenience on some folks, but I don't think it's a hardship...particular hardship on our rural colleagues. I think, if anywhere, the rural part of Nebraska is having the biggest meth problem. I don't...it's hard for me to understand how anybody could be opposed to the bill, on the whole, and I assure you that if you have any suggestions, ways to make it better, I'd be happy to discuss that with you, and particularly between now and Select File. I think this makes sense; I think it's going to go a long ways towards stopping, or at least curtailing, some of the meth in this state. I do think, if passed, it will be the most comprehensive meth bill passed in our entire country. I think it works. I think it makes sense. I think it makes sense, particularly for rural Nebraska. And Senator Burling, if I sound a little defensive, I apologize for that, but don't be misled by these pharmaceutical companies. This is about competition; it's about greed, quite honestly. If your doctor writes you a prescription, you can have as much of this drug as that doctor will write the prescription for. This limit doesn't matter. That's why their arguments in the lobby, the pharmaceutical arguments, are bogus. It is all about competitive advantage, against one another. It's about money, it's about greed. That's all it is, and I just hope nobody gets misled by that. This is a sound proposal that makes sense, that will help eradicate or at least curtail this scourge on our society. I am really struggling as to why this is a hardship in rural Nebraska. It's not. The hardship will be on the meth