

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

May 3, 2005

LB 117

discussion of AM1181. Senator Stuthman, followed by Senator Heidemann.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I've been listening to the debate, listening to the opposition, listening to the proponents. The thing that I think we need to really be serious about is, how do we solve this problem? We've got the opposition saying they don't like this or don't like this. Have they got a solution? How can we get this problem solved? It is a problem. And I think we will all admit to this, that it is a problem. I think we should realistically, you know, be working with this bill. But also, we should expand on it. We should expand our efforts of trying to solve the problem. Where is the big problem? In my opinion, the problem is in two areas. One of the big areas is the imported methamphetamine coming into the state. That is a huge problem. How do we solve this? What action should we take to try to solve this, try to curb that? The next thing that we have, which does consume a lot of time for law enforcement to try to curb, is the ones that are cooking the meth, the little labs in the back yard, in the garages, in the vans. Those are the problems. I sympathize with elderly people or anyone, you know, that is going to have to have a little bit of an inconvenience for trying to buy pseudoephedrine in the local retail outlet. Should we be concerned about those people? Yes, we should be. Should we be targeting our efforts directly to the cooks and to the importers? That is where I think we really need to be doing something. One of the things in my local community that was a really, really a kind of a disgusting part of law enforcement, of what they're trying to accomplish and not being able to get it done, they come along onto one of these labs, they do take the manufacturers in to the county jail overnight. The next morning they're on the phone calling for bail money, and they're out. They have no problem of getting their bail money, because their league of people has got some money, because that's what they deal with. They're a cash business. They can find money. They can get \$1,000 to make their bail. That's on Friday morning. On Saturday night, they're back in the manufacturing business, busy at it again, making meth for themselves and for a little bit additional income, getting another person onto meth. And I sympathize for