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

May 3, 2005

LB 117

will support this, because we know we have a problem, and we have to try to do something. We have to address this. And it may be true that only 20 percent of the meth is actually made in Nebraska. But I've been told that law enforcement spends so much time and effort on that 20 percent that they don't have time to go out and worry about the 80 percent that's coming from the southwest part of the United States. If we can slow down these meth labs, maybe it will give them more of an opportunity to try to slow and stop that stuff that's coming in from other My big concern is, if we don't do anything and all the surrounding states do something, everybody is going to come to this state because they know it's easy to cook their meth and get their ingredients. This might be one of the very few instances when everybody else is jumping off the cliff that we better maybe jump, too, or we could get affected down the road in a negative way. We keep talking about this bill as being a Band-Aid. Maybe we shouldn't look at it as being a Band-Aid, but a tourniquet. And we're...with this bill, we're making the first twist on this tourniquet. And if we got to do it bill by bill to address this problem, then that's what we need to do. But this is a tourniquet. This is the first twist. I support this amendment and I support this bill. With that, I'll give the rest of my time back to the Chair. you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Heidemann. Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. President, members of the body, as I've talked before, you know how I feel about meth and how it affects people. I do still believe that we should certainly concentrate more and more on education, along with everything else we're trying to do. And you have to start at the lower grades, and right on through high school, and educate the parents and everyone else that...what meth will do, from that first hit of it, or whatever they call your first time you take it. But the only thing is, there are a couple...there have been a couple of bills on...I mean, laws on the books since 19...since 2001. One was a retailer education program, the State...the Nebraska State Patrol. That was statute 28-453. Nebraska State Patrol may develop and maintain a program to inform retailers about illicit methamphetamine production, distribution, and use in Nebraska,