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FLOOR DEBATE

May 4, 2005

LB 425

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Foley, would you respond to a question from Senator Combs?

SENATOR FOLEY: Yes, thank you.

SENATOR COMBS: Senator Howard had mentioned some agencies that provide good services, that are in Nebraska. Would these agencies be eligible to apply for this funding to be the umbrella program for their fellow programs?

SENATOR FOLEY: Yes, they would. And that was the key point that we faced when the Governor first proposed this. It was tied in to a Pennsylvania model. And we backed off of that, and said, no, no, no, let's do a competitive solicitation. So any of the groups in Nebraska who are already doing these kinds of services can step forward and put in their proposal to do this kind of work.

SENATOR COMBS: Okay. So I guess I'm asking a question you don't know the answer to at this point. But with the knowledge you have now, do you foresee this grant going to an outsider, as opposed to someone already providing the services in Nebraska? Or is that not...are you not able to answer that?

SENATOR FOLEY: Well, it's a fair question. I don't know who will bid. I'm operating under the presumption that this is going to be spent in Nebraska by a group already in Nebraska. Because they're going to have unique knowledge of our state, and they're already in the state operating, performing services to women in Nebraska.

SENATOR COMBS: Right. Yeah. And that's an important point that Senator Howard brought up. And thank you, Senator Foley. Because the women here of Nebraska have come to trust them. A lot of what goes on with pregnant women, new mothers, is through word of mouth, that they talk among themselves. And the first person, who do you go to? It's not always your mom. It's a friend or a trusted adult or someone who is working perhaps in some of these programs that have already been established. And I got a letter from Right to Life that was explaining about the