

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

May 4, 2005

LB 425

Governor who soon will be ex-Governor has made it clear what his position on this matter is, and this was a crass political move on his part. With all of the other things that definitely need funding, ongoing funding, he selects something like this and he wants a company that will put up billboards because every time you see the billboard, it will ring up in people's minds an advertisement for David Heineman. Billboards are not going to do the job alone. There are situations which women who are pregnant face. And I'm in favor, and always have been, of assisting those women, but I don't want them to become political pawns. If a woman is pregnant and it is medically established that her life is at stake if this pregnancy is not terminated, and federal money funneled through this state will go to an agency or an organization which cannot give her any advice, it would be wrong to send that money to that location. It shows how, when religion gets involved and becomes the driving force, the welfare of the people who supposedly is to be served will not be served at all. Other people have given fiscal reasons, conservative reasons, why this amendment should not be adopted. So when you put all of these things together, it is clear that it would be unwise to adopt Senator Foley's amendment. So for whatever reason people have for voting no, I hope there is sufficient numbers to take this amendment down to defeat. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Howard, followed by Senator Brown.

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the house. As I mentioned before, there are excellent agencies in place here in Nebraska to meet this need, and I question the concern that there may be deficit with these agencies or maybe an unmet need. I can tell you, in the 34 years that I've done social work, when I have referred any individual, any prospective parent to any of these agencies, they have always made themselves available to provide service. There's never been anyone turned away. There's never been any claim of we're out of funds or we can't provide this service. Never. Why would we consider putting funding into start-up costs when we have agencies available doing the job, and these are Nebraska agencies? I'm completely dumbfounded by that thought process.