

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

May 4, 2005

LB 425

If we are sincere in wanting to look at curbing the tide of children coming into protective services, coming into foster care, spending years of their lives in foster care, we really need to look at the front end. We need to look at preventive services. That starts in the home. That starts before referral to child protective service. I can't implore you enough to look at this early intervention program and take action on it. Stand behind it, give the visiting nurses the opportunity to do the job that they're so skilled at doing. And with that said, I'd like to offer the remainder of my time to Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Howard. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Foley a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Foley, are you available for question of Senator...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, that's okay. The time will run out. But it had been touched on, the idea, is this supposed to create an ongoing program which the state is obliged to continue funneling money to? That question has been touched on. There's been no adequate answer. There are reasons to apply this money to the programs that Senator Thompson and others have discussed. The Appropriations Committee members who have spoken explained why they did not accept this approach. I think those reasons are compelling, but I do want to touch on the others that are underlying this entire thing. And Senator Foley should have forthrightly talked about those things because they are his major motivation. If the main reason for doing this is to give needed counsel and advice to women, all information across the spectrum will be available and provided. If any organization says that their particular religious, ethical or other views will prevent them from advising women as to all of the legal options available, such an organization should not be considered as the grantee agency or organization. And Senator Foley should have put that in his amendment if he was not trying to skew this in one direction to give one point of view. If there's not to be any discussion of abortion, there should be nothing said