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FLOOR DEBATE

May 5, 2005

LB 425

Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. I'd respectfully call for the question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The question before the body is, shall debate cease on the Byars amendment, AM1440, to the committee amendments? All in favor vote aye; all opposed, nay. The question before the body is, shall debate cease? Have you all voted on the question who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 4 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The motion was successful. Debate does cease. Senator Byars, you're recognized to close on AM1440. Sorry about that.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and Matt for turning on the mike. We've had, I think, plenty of dialogue, and I think everyone knows, has enough information to make an objective decision. And I certainly didn't ever intend when we brought this amendment to the floor that it would be one that should take up hours and hours and days of debate, although I do feel that I certainly would be up to that and I feel the issue is important enough to have important dialogue. But we do have some differences of opinion. I certainly respect what Senator Beutler said and am in support of what he said. I have been a very strong advocate of trying to get the department to do a plan: where are we, where have we been, where are we going. We are finally under the direction of Ms. Montanez and Rene Ferdinand, who is head of the DD division now, moving forward on that plan, because all of those issues that he brought up need to be addressed. They do affect us and are a good reason why you should support this amendment, because one of the things that we found consistently is the fact that without...with a staff that turns over so regularly, it's impossible to have the kind of adequate training that you need. You need people that you train that can stay awhile and that start to understand the system. They are able to accept supervision better and are