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LB 117

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. (Visitors introduced.) Discussion of the first part of the divided question? Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I am totally supportive of this portion, this divided portion of it, because of minor children in the presence of the labs or the cooks or where it's being manufactured. I have a real concern with that because these are innocent children. They don't know any difference. They love their parents, but their parents don't care when they're making meth. The only thing the parents are really concerned with is to make meth to help with their addiction and supplement their income so they can buy the products so they can make more meth. That really does concern me. I do not want to see these, you know, these children being taken away. I hate to see that. But when they're in a situation like this, playing around, messing around in the area of where the meth is being made, I have a real concern about that. I do not have all the information, but I did hear on the radio the other day where they did find a couple that had a child. I think the parents were 26 and 20, or 18 or 20 or something like that, and they had a 2-year-old son, and the son was tested and was positive for meth. What does that really do for the rest of the life of that young individual? It hurts him forever. Treatment may help him in time to come but, as I've said before, it's death by meth, and this drug is so addictive and it is so controlling over the brain that they can't help themselves. So this is a real concern of mine that we do everything possible to stop these labs so that we can have these young children be successful people in life. Let's think about that, because if we don't, we're going to have a lot of people in treatment centers, on welfare, being a liability to our taxpayers. So I am truly supportive of anything that we can do to get something passed so that we can protect the youth and the children in our society. So I am...I'm in favor of this portion of it. I do not like to see this happen, but people are putting their children in that situation and it's because they got hooked on it and their mind has got them to the point where they have got to have meth. They don't care about anything else. They don't care about the children. They don't care