

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

May 19, 2005

LB 117

I'd like to read a couple quick excerpts from the newspaper. The saddest victims are the children. Meth fumes from the kitchen damage their lungs, and their meth-addicted parents often neglect them. Police raiding home-based meth labs say they have opened refrigerators to find meth oil but no milk. The children are often dirty and neglected. Another little paragraph: When it comes to antisocial behavior, one meth trait knows no bottom. One drug maker reportedly ordered his child to shoot anyone coming near the family lab. That's the level of thinking with this people. That's why I contend Senator Chambers is wrong. These people...these children are in serious, serious dangers. I talked about earlier many times the way a meth lab is discovered is because somebody was taken to the hospital as a result of an explosion and fire in a meth lab. You don't think those children being present are in immediate dangers? Sure, they are. I don't believe the existing legislation guarantees the need that we have to make sure there's clarity in the law. Too many times I've seen attorneys get people off, simply say, well, I don't see anything wrong with that child; how could they have been abused? We can't let that happen. Many times the methamphetamine doesn't show up until much later, shows up in their system. We cannot allow that to happen. The most important thing we can do is get these kids away from those parents who don't care. If they want to go through rehab, if they want to go through treatment, prove themselves as responsible adults and parents again, that's another story; that's another fight for another day. But right now the most critical thing we can do, the most important thing we can do this year to protect our children in the state of Nebraska is to pass this legislation. We absolutely have to do that. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR ENGEL: Thank you, Senator Aguilar. Senator Bourne. Senator Bourne waives. Chambers, you're recognized.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I wasn't trying to harass Senator Aguilar by standing near him, but I wanted him to know and be aware of the fact that I was listening very carefully to everything he said, and it was rather ludicrous. But here's the point that I'm making. This is not an amendment designed to protect children from drugs, the