

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

May 19, 2005

LB 117

it's...in reading this, I think any layman would indicate or would agree that if you're processing, cooking, or manufacturing methamphetamine, and with the intrinsic dangers associated with that, that that may indeed fit the parameters of placing a child in a situation that endangers his or her life. Was there any consideration, though, Senator Aguilar, to expanding our child abuse and neglect statutes to the sale of any illegal drug? In other words, if you have a household and you're selling meth, or if you're selling marijuana out of a household, or if you're selling cocaine, now that I don't think you can successfully argue meets the criteria of placing a child in certain levels of danger to life and so forth. I mean, has there been any discussion relative to the possibility of amending these child abuse and neglect statutes to cover the situation where drugs, illegal drugs, are being sold? Because, Senator Aguilar, I think if you're manufacturing, and processing, and cooking meth, that's already covered here. But I would be interested in expanding our child abuse and neglect statutes to look at the kids in our community that are exposed to the sale of illegal drugs and of these individuals, I'll call them, that profit from selling drugs and exposing their kids to that environment. I think something needs to be done in that area and I don't think them situations are covered on our existing statutes.

SENATOR AGUILAR: I couldn't agree more, but that's another fight for another day. The immediate danger right here and that we're trying to address is the intrinsic dangers that happens when meth is being cooked, the volatility of the chemicals involved, the opportunity for a fire, for an explosion. To me, that is an immediate thing that needs to be addressed right now, and as you can see right now what the process we're going through trying to get to the square one is like mission impossible. To add what you're suggesting, you know, I don't think we're going to accomplish that as a body.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Well, I think, Senator Aguilar, again, I'm sympathetic to what you want to do. I'm sympathetic to your underlying...what you're trying to do here and I know what you're trying to do, but I don't...I don't know if there's a demonstrated need for it. Again, every time I was involved in situations like this, they would bring child abuse and neglect