

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

May 20, 2005

LB 117

that what he is talking about here is absolutely essential because we...if we pass LB 117, we have one prong of the problem addressed--I didn't say solved, but addressed--and we don't have the treatment component addressed. And it is my intent that we will take this study that's going to be done this summer and we will incorporate that. There will be legislation. And the matters that Senator Synowiecki are outlining in this amendment will be contemplated in that study, and I promise they will be contemplated in the legislation that's introduced come January. With that, I don't think that this is an appropriate time to add this amendment to the bill. I think it makes sense to have an outside vendor look at the problem. And I am comfortable that this will be one of the components of legislation introduced, but I do believe it's putting the cart before the horse at this particular time. Again, I thank Senator Synowiecki for this idea. There's nobody I listen to more on probation and parole matters than Senator Synowiecki. But I do believe that we need to let the study go forth and add this as a next component come next January. With that, as much as I hate to say it, I would urge your rejection of AM1663. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. On with discussion of the Synowiecki amendment, AM1663. Senator Synowiecki.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. While it's true there's going to be a study undertaken by an independent body, that study is relative to capacity of treatment. It relates to...you know, I'm kind of dumbfounded by Senator Bourne's trying to link a study that is going to study treatment resources within the state of Nebraska with good, sound public policy for post-conviction attention to this offender group. We are looking at a bill here relative to methamphetamine abuse in our society, and it is serious. It's quite serious. And we have a population of offenders that are not being addressed appropriately. We have an opportunity here to do effective work, on a statutory basis, with this population that the probation and parole officers do not right now have the tools to do. The fact that there's going to be a study this summer I endorse, and it...and what that study is going to look at is treatment capacity and has nothing to do with...in terms of the