

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

May 24, 2005

LB 256

members of the Legislature to work out deals on their bill. So I would have supported Senator Smith's bill or amendments for those reasons because I do believe that what was in the amendments before us were substantially different than the testimony that we heard at the hearing. And I've sat on the Health Committee for five years and I've listened to different groups come before the Legislature and before our committee with concerns and ideas and, generally, they're valid. But I have to admit that on Senator Smith's bill, after not only his attempt but Senator Landis' attempt in the past to have the discussion necessary to have an honest, political and policy debate on this issue has been denied. And so I am encouraged to hear Senator Jensen's comments that he hopes that Senator Smith proceeds, because to this point we have not got to that level. We have not got to the policy level on what it is that we should be discussing. We have got to turf battles. We've got to discussions about people who have ideas about what happens in third world countries on one issue, and on the other side they're willing to adopt them and embrace them wholeheartedly. So I think Senator Smith was in the right. I think it was unfortunate and I think it was ill-advised what the committee did to his proposal. I do hope that Senator Smith proceeds accordingly. I hope that those individuals who seek to scuttle and to bring irresponsible comments to the members of the Health Committee that children who are born at home have some form of defect or some other issue, that is irresponsible, in my opinion, that a licensed professional would come before our committee and try to make those assumptions in regards to the increased costs in special education or other areas. It was flat-out disrespectful and if that ever happens again I hope that our Committee on Health and Human Services will act accordingly. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Dwite Pedersen. Mr. Clerk, first, you have an announcement?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. The Education Committee will meet in Executive Session in Room 2022 now; that's Education in 2022 now.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Now you may go, Senator Pedersen, and I'm