

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

May 25, 2005

LB 425

happened since we put the coordinators in these centers is that the abuse...other kinds of abuse, physical abuse, are also now being brought to these centers, which is good because all the parts of the community are there who can effectively prosecute this, and we want that prosecuted. But these centers aren't capable of being able to take all those cases that are now presenting themselves. So, as an Appropriations Committee, we made this a very high priority. I was, quite frankly, very, very proud of the committee for saying we need to step in to an area that has no one out there fighting for it except us. We are it. Now, they came back and told us exactly what they needed to be able to serve all of the state. Now the area I live in, it was a collaborative effort of people in my community to put the first one together in the Omaha area, but not all of you have this available to you. And they...these centers want to make sure that every part of the state, every county, has the ability to take the kids from, instead of sitting in their sheriff's office and the police stations, to these centers for a gentler, more appropriate way to question them when they have been physically abused. And all I ask is that you consider doing what the Appropriations Committee recommended that these centers needed to be able to serve the numbers that are coming to their door these days that they can't serve, and to make sure that this is statewide and we have some consistency. That's important. That's important. And there's no one else other than you to help these kids get through this trauma. So I ask you to put this back in the budget. We haven't put anything back in. It won't hurt the Governor's reputation as a budget cutter. I don't think he'll have any problem. I don't think he'll have any problem personally, politically, governmentally with doing the right thing for kids who have been physically and sexually abused. Let's do the right thing and put this money back in the budget.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. You've heard the opening on MO 63 by Senator Thompson. Open for discussion. Senator Howard.

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I thank Senator Thompson for bringing this override motion in, and I think it would be of assistance if I could give some