

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

June 2, 2005

LR 15, 76

The question before the body is, shall LR 15 be adopted? All in favor vote aye; all those opposed, nay. Question before the body is adoption of the Smith LR 15. Have you all voted on the question who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of LR 15.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The resolution has been adopted. We now go to LR 76, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 76, offered by Senator Landis, found on page 1161 of the Journal, was introduced on April 11 of this year. At that time it was referred to Judiciary Committee, pursuant to the Speaker's authority to refer. The resolution was...public hearing was held. Judiciary Committee has reported the resolution back to the Legislature for further consideration.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Landis, you're recognized to open on LR 76.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. I will be taking this to a vote. This resolution was brought to me by a group of kids who, some of whom, had been through the foster care system. They were all part of the Governor's Youth Council. They brought it to me originally as a declaration of rights of students and kids who were in the foster care system, and I said I was uncomfortable with the use of the word "rights" because I was familiar enough with our system that it would be an exaggeration to say that kids in the system had rights. Because our theory is, with an outright right, you can enforce a right and require the system to do what you need it to do, and I wasn't inclined to make promises that would not be kept. So it was redrafted into a statement of aspiration, if you will, and the suggestion, by the way, is some reworking, but the text essentially came from the kids, most of whom were in high school in the Lincoln area, but it asks us to declare that every reasonable effort should be made to reunite a child with their biological parent, but if that doesn't work they should have a placement plan that reflects the child's best interests; that every child in foster