

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

January 12, 2006 LB 454

Chambers volunteered to take my time for me, but I think I'll decline his strong-arming, or strong request. Members of the Legislature, I...maybe I'm at a loss and I shouldn't be. It's interesting, as I've been a member of this Legislature, we generally get to this point when we get to controversial issues, Senator Chambers has offered us a bracket motion. And if it hadn't been for the Clerk reading what the bracket motion is, we would have no idea what date it was. But I'm going to rise in opposition to Senator Chambers' bracket motion. But I'm interested in Senator Schimek's comments, as she continually says, maybe we could send this bill back to a committee and have another public hearing. I read the article that she distributed from the Lincoln Journal Star, and I believe it was dated today. It's handwritten the 12th, so I believe that would be dated today, although it's not...oh, there it is, Thursday, January 12. The police chief of Lincoln, I'm assuming, is a member of the Police Chiefs Association of Nebraska. It's just an assumption. I don't have the verification. Senator Schimek is shaking her head. They testified. It would be interesting to see whether they testified on these issues, because according to the fact that he's a member of an association that I'm assuming he had to take a position on, now he says, well, we'd have to take a look and see whether or not we would want to have any other issues in it. He had a chance. The city of Lincoln had a chance. We have a committee hearing process. If the goal of Senator Schimek and the opponents of LB 454 was to fix the bill, I'm sure we could do that. But that's not their goal. It's a tactic. It's, let's send it back to committee. The Chairman of the committee doesn't even want it back, because he knows it's a stall tactic. If you want to fix the bill, we can fix the bill. We could, Senator Schimek, yes, we could. And here's how we could do it, okay? There are amendments filed. They could be substituted. If your concern is, is that if this bill passes, that there are concerns and issues that you think need to be resolved, and you see that it could pass, logically, you would think, well, let's try to figure out a way to make these issues there. But I think your position is, I'm going to exert these "woe is us as a state if this passes" philosophy to try to encourage enough members not to vote for it. And the alternative is, enough members may still vote for it, and your concerns may still be there, whether they're answered or not.