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FLOOR DEBATE

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the anger, the feelings that put that into play. And again, I would say thank you, Senator Beutler, for opening the door to this. Yesterday I was at a loss as to know how to enter into the discussion and how to present preventative initiatives. This is a tough question, but I do believe that this body is fully capable of looking and advocating for preventative services, and along those lines I'd certainly like to thank the Appropriations Committee for putting in the budget my request for increased appropriations to look at the issue of preventable birth defects. It's a beginning. It's a start. And if we can shift our thinking, if we can move more toward looking at what it's going to take to encourage women to do the right thing for their child, I think we can be very proud of our work here. With that said, I return the balance of my time to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Howard. Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'm going to talk to you just a little bit about my own experience as a drug and alcohol counselor, and being in this field for...now over 25 years. The women I know that have used these drugs are either very immature in their first use as young women, or the others who have no choice. To criminalize these people, these ladies, I think would be a sin. My own experience has also been with pregnant women, whether they use drugs or not, alcohol, they do not usually use these chemicals when they're pregnant except, again, when they have to, when they have both or either a physical or a psychological addiction to those chemicals. People, let's not criminalize these women for something they did not know what they were doing or could not help what they were doing. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Foley.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Three years ago when I wrote this bill, I had a particular public policy question in mind, and the public policy question was focused solely and strictly on what do we do with third parties who