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FLOOR DEBATE

March 15, 2006 LB 264, 1060

Unexcused senators report to the Chamber. The house is under call. The house is under call. All unexcused senators please report to the Chamber. Senator...Senator Bourne and Senator Schimek, would you check in, please. Thank you. Senator Bourne. All members are present or accounted for. There's been a request for a board vote on the question, whether AM2731 should be adopted to the Appropriations Committee amendment. All in favor vote aye; opposed, nay. Have you all voted on the question who care to? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 38 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Chambers' amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The Chambers amendment, AM2731, has been adopted. I do raise the call.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have is by Senator Howard, AM2749. (Legislative Journal page 1071.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Howard, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Chairman Cudaback and members of the body. If I could be excused for just one minute? Thank you. Thank you. My amendment involves the early intervention program, and I had come to the Appropriations Committee with a request for funding for this program. And I hope you will all recall that a year ago you were very supportive in passing LB 264. Nancy Thompson was very supportive also at that time, and assisted me in obtaining TANF funds, \$200,000 in TANF funds, to start the program. And what we looked at doing was a targeted program in the Douglas and Sarpy County area. Early intervention programming focuses on prevention of child abuse and neglect by offering screening, education, and home visitation to at-risk families. You may recall from the discussion on the floor last year that the home visitation intervention was the first recommendation of then Governor Johanns' child task force. The task force, brought together in the wake of 30 children deaths, reviewed studies that suggested that approximately 40 percent of maltreatment episodes could be prevented through early childhood home visits; 40 percent of