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that this was premature to be engaging in substantial monies in this program until we can evaluate it. So with that, that's the reason why we rejected the proposal. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Aguilar, followed by Senator Loudon.

SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I was a member of the task force that "Lady" Howard referred to, and I will say this, that I think if we're going to go to the time, the effort, the expenditures that are involved with forming a task force...and this was a quite lengthy one, and it involved credible experts from all over the childcare field and foster care field, just about every expert you can imagine, and this was one of the number one recommendations that they came away with from that task force. And part of the reasoning behind that process was the simple fact that they have done studies already in other states, and it is effective. It is very effective, Senator Pederson. I fully understand the struggles you have with the budget and the appropriations, but this is a valuable program. And as a member of that task force, I definitely, for one, will be supporting Senator Howard's legislation. Thank you. Any more time, Senator Howard?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Howard.

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Senator Aguilar. Thank you for the time. And I, too, would stress the fact that this is not a new program, this is not an experimental program. This is a program that's proven its worth. That's how we have the figure that says 40 percent of child abuse could be prevented, 40 percent of the damage could be prevented. And we're talking physical abuse, we're talking cigarette burns, we're talking shaken baby, we're talking sexual abuse. Forty percent could be prevented. That's a large number of children. This isn't new information. This is information the task force put a lot of time and a lot of effort. And frankly, the task force cost money, too. We funded that. This is a result, this is a recommendation made by that task force. I passed out information on the child that was recently injured here in Lincoln, and this child died. This is the type of abuse that could be prevented. We can't afford to