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

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background, at one point Hastings said yes, we want a meth treatment center, and then this study comes out and says, no, it should go in Norfolk. Well then, Hastings comes back and says, we don't want a meth treatment center. We don't need one, and they commissioned an independent, unbiased report written by John Ferrone, dated December 19, 2005, and this independent, unbiased report, even though John Ferrone is a member of the Hastings Chamber of Commerce, had about 25 pages why Hastings was the perfect location for a meth treatment center and Norfolk And Senator Burling passed the report around. said, I want everybody to see this before you go to your Christmas dinner--read all about it, and the unbiased report that Hastings has commissioned. Senator Burling states on floor tonight that we have overlooked in the meth treatment study the need for education, and I agree. We need good law enforcement, we need treatment, and we need education. But with 22,000-plus meth addicts in this state, \$200,000 won't buy enough D.A.R.E. bears for less than one-half percent of them. This is an attempt at a "just say no" program that if you read the Ferrone report, requires us to sit down and craft a plan and involve people from across the state on how we can educate people about the dangers of methamphetamine, and I think that's necessary. But if I turn to page, I believe it's five of the Ferrone report, the independent, unbiased study from the city of Hastings, it does talk about the need to sit down and look at all of the factors that are related to meth treatment, the need for community-based services versus institutional care. makes the point that we should not rush into anything, and while I support Senator Burling's effort to fund educational programs in this state, I think we can all agree that \$200,000 is an invitation to an extension agent somewhere across Nebraska to get a \$5,000 grant to have a one-day conference and no follow-through. If we're going to support education about the meth problem in Nebraska, let's have a task force that sits down with people across the state and looks at different ways that we can educate our youth by using the different medias. just the other day I read a story in here in the Lincoln area where they're talking about an ad campaign. Senator Aguilar and I have talked about great campaigns that have been funded in the state of Montana, where great things have been done to educate kids and youth and adults about the dangers of methamphetamine.