

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

April 5, 2006

LB 925

them up to keep them away from us. But when you've got 250, and 90 percent of them were not drinking again, they were driving on a suspended license, an electronic monitoring or something like that would have worked better. We're not giving them a chance to go to treatment. They can go to treatment if they want, but they've already lost their license for 15 years. People, I'm here to tell you as a personal testimonial in what I have done in my own life and what has worked with many, many others is, treatment does work. Treatment does not work, however, without follow-up. And follow-up was there before we ever had treatment. It's called self-help groups. I don't mention their name, because of the anonymity of the groups themselves. I almost died from alcoholism. I never went to any professional counselors. I didn't go to any professional treatment. I went to a self-help meeting, and from that day forward, I went to a meeting every day for over a year. And come May 11, if I make it that long, it will be 26 years since I had a drink. Self-help works, and treatment to get people in touch with that self-help works. But if you're going to take 15-year license, then what is your initiative to go to that kind of help? We need consequences to get attention, there's no doubt. I didn't all of a sudden one day decide I was going to sober up because it was a nice day. I never got caught driving, I didn't have a DUI, but it's about the only thing I didn't have. I was about to lose a wonderful family. I lost the best job I ever had. I couldn't get employed anywhere, and I was broke, busted and disgusted. And people from the street and the self-help groups helped me out. All of them consequences I had made me go to that first meeting. The lady that's sitting at home today, probably listening, is the main reason I went, and my children. I didn't want to lose them. That was the consequence. So we need the consequences. But I can tell you, with the people I've worked with in all the jail and prison work I've done, it's not on an uncommon basis that I hear somebody say, to hell with your programs; I'll just sit it out, because you didn't give me a chance anyway. I don't want to take them chances away, people. That's scary. The last point I want to make is, I don't know if you've been watching the news or the paper,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.