

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

April 4, 2005

LB 709

things that we haven't done in the past, in order to pay for the services for the kids that we know that if we pay for them now they'll be less likely to end up in prison in the future. We are somewhat in the same predicament with Medicaid. We have a number of individuals who have both personal financial issues that got them into Medicaid, but often high-needs, and...but we can't free up the money from those individuals right now to be able to invest in the young people, which may, in the long run, actually save us money. And I think that the Beutler amendment, even though it is intent language, gets at this...the balance of where we're spending the money within the Medicaid system, which is something that we really have to continue to discuss as we look at the broader overall. But in the broader overall, whether you believe that this is a...the imposition by the haves against the have-nots, Senator Erdman is correct that the numbers just don't work out long-term. So we've got to figure out something that we're going to be able to do. And part of that has to be...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...in directing, I believe, more of our funding into prevention services, and also looking at whether the funding that we're...what we're paying for right now, if we're paying for things at the end of life that are sometimes...that there are methodologies of manipulating the assets in a way that causes it to...the state to carry out the services. And if I'm going to choose between a family hiding assets--and I don't know how often this happens, but I do think it happens occasionally--and us providing the services to the elderly person, or us providing...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Time.

SENATOR BROWN: ...services to a young person, a child, I would rather choose the child. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Engel is next, followed by Senators Thompson, Byars, Jensen, and Chambers. Senator Engel.