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FLOOR DEBATE

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finding employment placements for each of the 125 families they handle. They also must assist those who need childcare placements and additional services. It is no secret that these workers are having a difficult time keeping up with all their 120 families. Workers already feel overwhelming stress, which is not fair to the workers or to those who are trying to move from welfare to work. I firmly believe in holding the administration of Health and Human Services accountable for achieving the outcomes that we want to see happen. I believe that it is important that the Legislature let Health and Human Services, as well as all of our other agencies, know that we are willing to give them the tools they need in order to accomplish these goals. We cannot afford to allow an overwhelming caseload to result in our not being in compliance. I ask that you consider what we are asking the front-line workers to do when you consider this amendment, and I appreciate your attention to this. I did take into consideration and included in this amendment...the Chairman of my committee, Health and Human Services, recommendation that this be...the time frame on this be delayed till January of 2007. That would give the time for the Health and Human Services to have workers hired and trained and in place. Thank you for your time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Howard. You've heard the opening on AM2663. Open for discussion. Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Senator Jensen, I don't blame you for withdrawing the amendment, but I'm very angry that you had to do that. I understand there's a whole host of issues here in LB 994 that are of vital importance to a lot of people, but I'll tell you what, if we don't act with integrity in here, we have nothing. Here's a letter from Loran Schmit: This is to reaffirm the note I sent to you yesterday. I told Rich Lombardi, lobbyist for the physical therapists, that we no longer have any...we no longer oppose, and will, in fact, support LB 445 if AM0799 is adopted. Go to your gadget, look at LB 445, the bill that was the amendment Senator Jensen withdrew. That amendment is adopted. This is outrageous. You know what's going on here? Loran Schmit is upset because he hasn't got his lien bill adopted, so he's not going to let the physical therapists get anything out of the deal. That's inappropriate.