

SENATOR ROGERS: Mr. Speaker and members, I'm sure that many of you have met my son Roger so you're well aware that I've been involved in one way or another in these programs for a good many years. You can be sure, assured that I can personally, I can talk about this being involved that much. We've heard testimony that we should wait a year and the funding system should be addressed in the coming years. I think I've heard similar comments every year I've been down here. You know, I think Senator Smith mentioned this yesterday, why can't we just take a few thousand dollars from each one of the large construction bills, if it boils down to dollars this year, and that would help the Appropriations Committee balance their budget? We could take a few hundred thousand from this building and a few hundred thousand from that and they'd have all kind of money because some of them have mentioned of the funding mechanism of it. And I guess in closing I would just want to say that I've heard these similar arguments wait a year, wait a year. I don't see any reason that we should have to wait a year and I would ask for the advancement of the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Lynch, would you care to discuss the amendment, followed by Senators Beyer and Robak. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Speaker and members, I really regret that I have to show the kind of concern I have regarding this particular amendment because it's obvious to me that there are an awful lot of well-meaning people who want to support these kinds of programs and I'm grateful for that, but I'm also convinced that in the process of trying to help these people, you maybe not...you maybe really don't understand how we got to the crisis we're in today and therein lies the problem with the amendment as far as I am concerned. Because, you see, the region I represent did not cause a crisis as did Region V and maybe some others. So what I did is to help me understand maybe how this crisis developed, for example, when waiver money was developed, no people were taken off the waiting list. When waiver money was developed the possibility that no people were taken from as the principle of a waiver provides, nobody was taken from a more expensive kind of program that serves the particular need of that person to a less expensive program, generally that being a local program. Or, in fact, in the last couple of years since the waiver money was developed plus the money that it was...has been reestablished and, in fact, established by the Appropriations Committee what has happened.