

that has got us into the financial woes we've got now where we're spending more than we're taking in and that's where my concern is from. And I also question down the road on federal assistance, with the nation being broke, so as I think it is, where that money will come from, so that is some concerns, but right now it's 19,000 for one year.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Yes, and that 19,000 would enable us to get about \$38,000 match from the federal government to cover an administrative position to run the Medicaid eligibility.

SENATOR PETERSON: Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Peterson. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. President, members of the body, I'd like to go on record supporting LB 701 and I think the thing that struck me as I reviewed this bill was the way they're going to try to encompass the family and I don't know if any of you... I know I was lucky. My wife and I had five children, we didn't have to worry about any disabilities. My sister wasn't quite that lucky. Her son was born with a disability and believe me, folks, if it wouldn't have been for the compassion that that young man had from his mother and father, he wouldn't be a fully functioning adult today. And I think those are some things we have to look at. I know that Senator Peterson talks about the money and I know that is a crucial factor and we have to watch that, but some of the things that I think are very significant, early intervention for children of this age is very critical. And this also means that there are less expensive services as a child grows older. I think that is one significant point that we should not forget. And improving early intervention will at the very least get much needed help to these young people. It could also reduce the strife within families and hopefully keep some of those families together that might break up because of a consequence such as this, so I would encourage you to support 701 and let us take a look after it goes a year and see if it is worthy of moving it on further. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I just wanted to comment a little bit on the discussion between Senators Peterson and Rasmussen. If we were to set up a full-blown program I think there's no question it would be quite expensive.