

September 29, 1992 LB 4

like this that we need to think about when we pass them. I think it's also important to understand and I think it's...on other things that we're talking about, and I compliment Senator Wesely and other members of the committee...of his committee, I know it made a very tough vote by advancing this bill, obviously, in my opinion, there comes a time if you can't afford it now, I don't think the state can afford this in '95. It's going to cost a lot of money and it's these sort of entitlement type programs, it's these sort of very costly programs that the state probably cannot afford without raising taxes and that's why I voted against LB 830 originally. And when we revisit this, we may have to revisit this, we'll have to see if we can afford it then, but it's a very costly program. But Senator Wesely is correct in saying...and I'm not arguing with the fact that these people are certainly in need of some type of services. I'm looking at it strictly from a budgetary standpoint and it's these sort of, on the Medicaid side of things, entitlement type program like LB 830 which goes on an automatic pilot situation that simply there's not...regardless of whether the money is there to pay for those things, and that's the problem. I also think it's important, ties into what I had said on some other bills, I mean, in '89 and '90 this Legislature made some spending decisions like LB 89, like the MRF bill, like LB 830, and the list goes on, when there was...when on a boom and bust cycle when we made commitments and now we decide we cannot afford, obviously, it is a tad bit of cruelty to those people who were led to believe there was going to be the money there. I think there was never the money there to fund this service at that point in time and two years from now we may well have to look at where we are and it may take cuts in other programs or some sort of increase in revenue to fund a program like this. But I think, given at this juncture in time it is wise at least to delay the enactment of LB 830. I think it...Senator Wesely, I know it's a tough vote for him, I compliment him for at least working within the realm of the real world, so to speak, in trying to work through this problem. I simply ask the body's advancement of LB 4.

SENATOR WARNER: Amendment on the desk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hall would move to amend. Senator, would you like me to read this?

SENATOR HALL: If you would, please, Mr. Clerk.