

that state regulations can be written to ensure that no new entitlements and no new state funds are involved.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: And I hope that everyone who reads this realizes that this is the bill that deals with this contracting of services and will go along with some of these suggestions to make sure that that money is put into the areas that we intended it to when we wrote this piece of legislation, and keep it from being just extra monies for these areas, or keep the decisions in the hands of the Legislature on the cost of these budgets instead of giving it to the departments. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Wehrbein, your light is next, followed by Senator Beutler.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam President, members, I'll be brief. I concur with many of the comments being made. I support trying to seek the additional federal funds. I, too, am concerned that we would be caught flat-footed, so to speak, in time if this is not carefully drawn. But as the intent of the legislation to bring in additional federal funds, that it should be revenue neutral and that we'd be able to utilize these funds that apparently are not being utilized now, which kind of disappoints me, frankly, that we haven't had it before this. But I would support this bill and ask that you support it also.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Beutler. Senator Beutler. Is there any further discussion on LB 752? Seeing none, Senator Robak, do you wish to close?

SENATOR ROBAK: Yes, thank you, Madam President, members of the body. In closing I would just like to say that what this bill does, it's a technical bill in nature. But...and if there's any problems with it, I'd be glad to work with you, and Senator Wesely and I would be glad to work with you. What it does really is give support services to...it gives services, support services to those who suffer from severe, persistent, disabling psychiatric disorders. Services could mean case management, medication management, social and interpersonal skills training, they would be provided in all settings where people with disabling mental illnesses are served--day treatment programs, group homes, community residential facilities, out-patient treatment and rehabilitation programs, institutions. The