

discussion on LB 889, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And, Madam President, members of the Legislature, the reason I'm discussing Maximus on this bill, I brought it up way back in January on the first deficit appropriation bill we had and I'm bringing it up at every opportunity to show the poor, slipshod way business is being done by this government and how now the Appropriations Committee has rooked the Legislature into it. If there had not been great public criticism and scrutiny and the introduction of LB 519, Maximus would be taking credit for all that money and the state would be paying it. For you all's information, my introduction of 519 has saved the state 3.5 percent already, saved you 3.5 percent already. Now, well, the way it happened, Senator Bromm, they reduced from 12.5 percent down to 9 percent that they're going to extort from the state. If they got people so dumb at the Department of Social Services that they don't even understand the programs they're hired to work on, how are they going to be able to monitor what Maximus is doing to say whether or not they have this money coming. In other words, who is monitoring Maximus? They got nothing but a bunch of dumbbell over there, and that's how they justified hiring Maximus. Maximus has a contract to handle the managed-care Medicaid program. Now, Senator Wehrbein, you're the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, what is in place to prevent Maximus from double-dipping by saying they found money while working on this contract to manage the Medicaid program and get a percentage under their sweetheart contingent fee contract?

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What is in place to keep them from double-dipping? Do you know?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Just a minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: There's letters of agreement, part of the main contract that would suggest that the agreement would be made as to what would be there now versus what they may get. So there's a baseline, and so that is delineated in the letters of agreement.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Does the letter of agreement say that in no