

February 12, 1996 LB 1044

it doesn't take us, perhaps we can take it.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR HILLMAN: And so in that effect, that part of it, I think it will become more effective or more efficient. It also, I believe, and I will repeat that it will become more effective because I think you will be dealing more on a localized basis...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR HILLMAN: ...with regional time, and there are several instances, I'm sure all of us can give problems that we'd have...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR HILLMAN: ...and I will push my light again. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Madam President and members, I rise to support this bill, particularly in its concept. I realize there's lots of details to be worked out, but those of you that raised the issue about the money, I want to...I went back and looked at the budget on Social Services alone. The point really is that we have no choice but to move in the direction that this takes us, and I compliment those that worked so hard on this to provide a framework to lead to where I think we are going to have to go. I looked up Agency 26, Social Services' budget alone has gone up near...over, over, no nearly, nearly \$200 million, from \$864 million in 1993-94 to over a billion dollars, \$1,051,000,000 in '96-97. In a four-year span, we've gone up nearly \$200 million in that budget. That's all sources, that's not all General Fund, and I can give you the breakdown if you'd like. The point is we are going up regardless of what we like to admit, we are going up significantly in this area. And so those costs are going to be there, and so we've got to do something to slow this down, and if this doesn't exactly immediately save money, perhaps that's true, but we've got to move in the direction of getting the costs under control and being more efficient in the delivery of this services, and I believe that this concept does that. I understand some are nervous about the details, not knowing where it's to lead within