

February 12, 1996 LB 1044

NAPE-AAFCSME to sign onto this bill and coming and testify in favor of it because we are not going to fire one person in state government. So these other three people are going to go do something else. So the big unasked question is here. If we're having tremendous increase in costs of state personnel for health care, for retirement programs, for days off, I mean that's increasing at the rate of 12 to 11 percent a year for all those people, and we're not going to cut one person out of all this, so that cost is still going to increase. So what are we going to do, not buy any more desks for anybody, or maybe have computers bought at a slower rate? Where are the costs going to...going to level out and stop here? If we are not going to stop the cost to the people, who we are supposed to be helping, if those costs are going to increase, naturally they do due to federal programs, and if we are not going to stop the costs due to the personnel in the delivery system, that's 80 percent of that delivery system, we are not going to stop those costs, we're not going to have any cost efficiencies and effectiveness. Yeah, for a couple of programs maybe we'll be able to have everybody go to one person for paperwork savings, and instead of going to three different departments, they will go to one different department, and then those two departments will split up whatever work that went to those workers, but, to me, we are going to an awful lot of trouble to make it look like we're doing something, when it doesn't look to me like we are doing anything. I mean I feel like Alice in Wonderland here with this bill going forward, and you guys already calling the question on it, and nobody wants to talk about it, and in the Office of Juvenile Services, their budget is ballooning at the rate of 5 million bucks a year, and then you've got a \$1.3 billion on this fiscal note, and you want two hours of discussion on it. I just keeping asking myself, what is going on here. To me, this, again, appears to be a totally political bill, that you've already had the union sign off on so we're not going to be cutting any personnel. We are going to be shuffling papers, and we are all patting ourselves on the back thinking we're doing something about controlling costs here, and I do not see where you are going to be controlling costs here. And I...and now people are saying, well, we are not actually going to be controlling costs, but it is going to be more effective and more efficient. What it looks like to me, as I read through here, is you are going to have costs ballooning because you are not only doing things here at the state government, but now you are going to be contracting with community services and doing all this

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