

region did not have in place what was required...what was passed in 1987, required in 1991 until July of 1995. In other words, it took eight years from the time we passed the bill to finally see it implemented by that region. And that's not an example of the kind of service system we want to continue, that's why we want to change this system. It's not a model, it's a reason that we need to pass LB 1059.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Mr. Clerk, is there an amendment on the desk?

CLERK: Senator Chambers would move to amend.

SENATOR WILL. Senator Chambers, to open on your amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, a copy of this amendment is being passed around. And in order to focus your attention on where it will affect the committee amendment, the last three lines of the committee amendment. It would be subsection (5). The way that language reads now, it talks about an intent of the Legislature to have regional and community representatives be involved in the implementation of this legislative bill. To state right out of the chute my position, I'm opposed to the bill. I don't trust the state. Whenever a crunch comes and cuts have to be made, those cuts will be made in programs that relate to the poor, the most vulnerable people, those who have mental and physical illness. And I don't trust the state based on what this Legislature has done already. When I look at the so-called welfare reform where the state is going to do so much to make things better and improve the system, the most crucial element of the bill, namely the provision of jobs, paying a living wage so that when women are kicked off welfare after two years they could get a job, that part was just dropped. It was never delivered on. That's how the state violates its promises. That was the carrot that was held out and now all these poor women face is the stick. Nothing has been changed in the law to keep them from being kicked off assistance. So the Legislature will let that go, that part of the law will be enforced because it's Draconian, it is punitive, and it's hurtful to those who are most vulnerable and that's how the Legislature gets its jollies. If we have a situation as envisioned in this bill, where the state is to take over all of these services performed now by the county, the services simply won't be performed. It's just another area