

where the Legislature can easily cut back. And that is what will be done. There is not a program this Legislature undertakes which is designed to benefit poor people or the vulnerable. When there are programs of any kind that work in that area, it's based on the notion that the federal government is going to give the lion share of the money and it takes from the state a responsibility that it owes to its citizens. So what I am offering in the amendment that is before you, by now it should have been handed out, and those who may have an interest will have the opportunity to look at it, instead of making everything a wish, a hope, and a prayer as this committee amendment does, this would be operative language. It would create a new section to the bill and it would require the following: "Regional and community representatives shall be involved at all stages in the implementation of this legislative bill." I probably shouldn't offer it because it brings a degree of equity by allowing those with the most interest in helping people to be included, not through the sufferance of those who are going to be maneuvering people and treating them like pieces on a checkerboard, but as a mandate from the Legislature that these representatives shall be involved. I am really troubled by the idea of turning these people over to the Department of Social Services when so many problems exist right now. (LB) 1044 has been presented to us with the argument that the department is so inept, so incompetent, so incapable of doing its job that it has to be folded in with some other operations so that we have a bigger mess than we had before. But I guess by increasing the size of the mess you hope to dilute to some extent the damage that DSS can do. But diluting the damage does not turn it into a positive good for the people who are to be served. This bill, 1089 (sic), is putting additional duties in the hands of this "superbureaucracy" being created by 1044. And I do not think that is a wise thing to do. I don't believe that it's fair. This amendment that I'm offering does not really correct any of the deficiencies that I see in the bill other than in the structural sense of saying that when you do this damage there will be people included in the process who may be able to put a break on that damage, who may be able to prevail upon the people undertaking this activity to ensure that these vulnerable people will not be thrown away. If you have any questions about the amendment that I'm offering, I will answer them.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. There are a number