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LB 1189

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ..would you like to try to maybe explain to the body how this pay raise does work?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: All right.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: What it does is have to do with the rates that providers are reimbursed or paid for the services they provide, and so it translates into different wage scales depending on the region. And so what I'm talking about is the pay equity issue, in actuality is reimbursement rate, and depending...and so I didn't translate that into a pay scale for a per hourly because...for the individual workers, because different regions have different pay scales. But, in essence, it's to...it will raise their rates. If the pay...if the rates are raised for the services that they provide, then that should translate into a pay raise for the workers.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And, as I understand it, this did translate into pay raise for the workers when we last made one of those increases.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Right. In the last fiscal...this fiscal...is it now, right now, 91.9 percent of the personal services...of that money went for personal services increase. The other 8 percent happened to go to other expenses and obligations, but by far over 90 percent went for pay equity and pay increases.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And we made this commitment in the first place, my assumption is, because we felt these people were not paid adequately. I mean I remember hearing this...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: That's...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ..year after year after year, so...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: That's true.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ..we've already had the argument about whether we should make that commitment, so it seems to me that to renege at this point...and maybe Senator Avery has a point, maybe we