

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 22, 1999 LB 54

bill. It also mentions in the bill that we have qualified, certified interpreters doing this kind of work. In working with...having some friends who are deaf and working with some deaf people, in my kind of work, it is very important that we have qualified and certified people, especially when we're working with things of confidentiality which would have to do with the courts, probation, substance abuse, and areas like that. It's very important that we don't have fly-by-night, one-course people run into these programs and say...call themselves interpreters. And that's why I'm supportive of the bill, that it's going to make sure that we have qualified and certified people doing this. If there's any other questions, I'd try and answer them for you. With that, I'll give the rest of my time to Senator Chambers, if he needs any time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Pederson, thank you, Madam President. And this is the last time I will speak on the bill, unless there are questions. Again Senator Wehrbein has discharged his duty as Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee. He, I think, misspoke, in my opinion, when he referred to this as a good program. Brothers and sisters of the Legislature, this is an essential program, it is absolutely essential that we have this program. For those who speak English, it may be difficult to understand how difficult it is to be in a set of circumstances where you do not understand that language. For those not hard of hearing or deaf, it may be difficult to appreciate the world of silence, in the same way that those who are afflicted in that manner will do. So I will try to give an example that we all might understand, even those who wear reading glasses, as I do, or those who wear long-range glasses, as some of my colleagues do. Let's say that the law is written and we are required to obey the particular law I'm talking about under pain of death, but because we are being ruled by a tyrant who loves to kill, he or she has that law engraved on a stone tablet, and the stone tablet is suspended 300 yards in the air. It is so high that nobody can read it, but at the same time nobody is in a position to say that the law was not written, that the law was not placed where the public could see it. In this set of circumstances where rights, privileges, freedom are at stake under the law, we don't want