

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

April 19, 1999 LB 637

first hand how they are so sure of that. If we are not going to lose the dollars, I think it might be worth the risk. But as near as I can tell, I think we are going to lose that money, and I don't think we have until January 5th, otherwise it's not a bad idea that Senator Chambers has, to maybe find out more information. I don't know that there's more to gather, but at least do that. But I don't think we can justify or afford that potential loss in addition to the TANF funds. So I understand the frustration with the mandate, and it is a mandate, as far as I'm concerned. But once again I repeat what I've heard from other states about other states, I would guess that we would be outraged at the way it's being handled some places else at the current time, and that's the reason for the federal mandate. So until I know more information,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...I'm going to oppose the bracket, at least move it. Maybe more will come in time here over the next two or three weeks that we can have a better handle on this, I'm doubtful. But I think that we need to move this bill, hold our nose, if you will, but I think it has to be done.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a trade-off. Senator Bourne mentioned would not it risk the whole \$15 million, apparently, possibly eight. And to me that...trading that potential loss off, or saying we're not going to...we're going to do this and keep that \$8 million, but we're going to decrease the level of personal service and accountability on a local level to these custodial parents. I don't think that's a good trade-off. I really think, after having input from lots of folks across the state, say if we had a viable study here, one that wasn't...I think the word that was used was scuttled, or whatever, one judge told me we were cut off at our knees on this thing. I remember that statement. So, if we had a viable study that took into account what we are doing in Nebraska, and included all the counties and so on, we could show we have better service and accountability, and we don't have those ten day turn around horror stories you hear