

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

May 13, 1999

LB 637

Health and Human Services Department that I...that I think it's unfair to attribute it to those people. I think it's a little bit of a problem of shooting the messenger, because what needed to be looked at, what the Bureau of Business Research looked at were those parameters that were set out by the federal government as to what would compel them to...to issue a waiver, and it centered around cost effectiveness. And, as I said in response to a question that was posed to me by Senator Don Pederson, the...one of the reasons that South Carolina was able to get a waiver is because they have so many fewer counties and so they were able to have some of those economies. But the path that we are putting ourselves on for ourselves and for the administration is that we are going to continue to debate the "how". And the task force was not able to arrive at that conclusion as we've seen by the alternative proposals that are out there as to who...who we, each of us, thinks should be the single disbursement unit, those are not resolved issues, and I'm not certain they are resolved by studying. I think they're resolved by us just making some decisions. And so what Senator Raikes said was very compelling to me that we are just deferring the most problematic aspects of this and...and there may be, in that period of time, some things that come together and come together well. It didn't happen for the task force and what the task force...the task force's response, both to the study, to any activities with which they were not happy, that didn't facilitate the conclusion that they...that at least part of them wanted to reach, and that part of them were people who had a vested interest. The disinterested individuals on the task force all were compelled by the information about cost effectiveness.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: It was those individuals who had a vested interest, who had a piece of the...the...of child support collection. And you have to remember, have to remember, this is about collection and disbursement and a lot of the issues that have been raised in the letters that have been read were raised from the enforcement side of it--the side that's not even being touched in terms of any changes, any mandates, any change in funding. We are going to continue to fund that aspect exactly as we have; that's where the issues were...were raised.