

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

April 14, 2003      LB 454

your bill impact these existing drug courts, in terms of their procedures and policies that they're individually following? And secondly, would it, put in statute, have any impact on their grant funding? Because I know also that Douglas County has been quite successful on their drug court program in securing grant funding. Would there be any negative...potential negative impacts by putting it into statute?

SENATOR AGUILAR: Oh, not at all. Not at all. I think it just authorizes it that much better. It verifies it, if you will. The drug courts itself are proven. I mean, they do work. And right now, there are some that are different than others. I don't particularly favor the one...the way they do the process in Douglas County, because it involves so much to do with probation that it's costly. It's a little more costly than what the rest of them are. I think the other system has proven that it's every bit as efficient, even more so, and less costly. That's my reasoning behind that.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: And I think you understand my concern, is that these programs are run, they apparently are successful. You are advocating for these programs. I just...by putting it in statute, I'm a little concerned, Senator Aguilar, that we might be overextending the state into individually local-controlled run programs. And the last thing I want to do is interfere, if you will, with their success. And you can have the rest of my time if you want to address it.

SENATOR AGUILAR: I would say the local control...I understand your concern. But the local control is still under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. So I mean, they're not going to do anything to jeopardize what's going on as far as...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR AGUILAR: ...their funding is concerned. As far as the funding concern, that is based on the success of the program. As long as that program keeps proving itself successful, that's going to be there. As far as I know, that's the only criteria for receiving that.