

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

April 28, 2003

LB 574

this, the more incensed I become. And I've had some of my colleagues tell me that they are willing to give some assistance this time because they are beginning to see the light. I have tried to do that down through the years. I offered a bill last year and this year that would have terminated the PEAP program. I knew the bill would never get out of the Education Committee. There are too many people connected or associated with these religions that run these discriminatory schools. So we're going to fight a long time on PEAP because I am going to try to cut that money out altogether. Now there are people on this floor, and I could call them by name if I wanted to, who will try to keep that money for PEAP because they are very deeply involved in religion and think the state ought to support their religious affiliations with money, although they discriminate against people, not only for sexual orientation, but for their religion. Then they whine and put up a pitiful mouth when I criticize their religion. And they have more people in their religion, I'm talking about the Catholics now, than any other denomination in this state. And they have more members throughout the country in their religion than any other denomination in the country. They know how to send people in the Legislature to fight for their desires. That shows how cunning, how politically savvy they are. And PEAP is one of those that an outfit like Creighton can get money from. Creighton gets money from the cigarette tax. Some of that money is earmarked for them. They get money out of the tobacco fund settlement. Then while they are embarking on this huge building program, they're going to get some more money out of this little amount that is available for need-based aid. If you will promise me that no money will be cut from the university, I'll change my mind on PEAP right this minute. Let me ask Senator Wehrbein a question.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Wehrbein, would you yield?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Wehrbein, is the university going to experience any cuts as the appropriations bill is drafted now?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.