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FLOOR DEBATE

April 30, 2003 LB 411

page 2, lines 25 to 27, strikes the new matter and reinstates the stricken matter. What that does is we return the adult dental back into the program. In other words, we did not take that portion out. So adult dental is still covered. On page 4 then, the second item, page 4, line 13, strike "Section" and insert "Sections 1920 and;" in line 14 strike the new matter and reinstate the stricken matter. And what that does, it returns a presumptive eligibility for pregnant women, but it retains in there the presumptive eligibility for children. Like I said, that was after much deliberation. That is the committee amendment and I would ask for its adoption.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Open for discussion on AM1082 by the Health and Human Services. Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thanks, Senator Cudaback. I rise in favor of the committee amendment, AM1082. Did want to make a couple of things clear I think in the deliberations of the committee and a question that I had for the department. The orthodontics piece that probably none of us were very excited about endorsing but I think we felt, in light of the budget, that we needed to do that as we did with the other things that are included in this bill, any child that is preapproved, that has received their approval for orthodontic coverage prior to the LB 411 going into effect will continue to have that orthodonture work available to them. Obviously, anyone that has a need after LB 411 goes into effect and is not preapproved will have to look at another method of funding. But I wanted to make sure that we had it as part of the record that those children that are preapproved will...we will continue to honor that promise. Those that are in the process of getting that care done now, the care will be completed that had been started. I also feel that it's necessary. Our committee, as the Appropriations Committee, as we have dealt with these issues, are extremely difficult. Those of us who are strong advocates for people who unfortunately are many times not able to care for themselves came about these decisions in a very difficult way. As we look at the Ribicoff kids, as we look at the orthodonture piece, as we'd look at