

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 30, 2003      LB 411

we're told that this should be an easy cut. I don't think it's an easy cut. I'm not going to tell you how to vote on it. I'm just telling you that's the cut. It's before us. I place it there in amendment so that you decide. If you vote yes, you're taking back one \$5.5 million in cuts that we have made. If you vote no, you are voting to transfer to the counties whatever it is that those hospital and physician bills and emergency room bills will be. Green, the state pays \$5.5 million; red, the county pays at least \$7 million. You decide.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kruse. You've heard the opening on AM1617, offered by Senator Kruse to LB 411. Open for discussion on that amendment. Senator Stuthman, followed by Senator Jensen. Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I have a couple of questions that I have on this and I'm not totally clear. On this amendment, is this amendment only to deal with the Ribicoff, and those are the people that are former state ward program, or is this for all low-income people? And I would probably direct my question to Senator Kruse or to Senator Jensen.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Kruse, would you respond?

SENATOR KRUSE: Yes, I will. This would be for all low-income people. The former foster care amount to 12 to 13 percent of the total.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Okay. Thank you. Also in the comments they said that, you know, if we wouldn't do this, they would end up on the county general assistance program and would be a burden to the county welfare program, but I realistically think that these people would have the ability to go to the health departments that are established in the area, that were created in the last several years, and now in Platte County, Columbus, we have the community health department also and we are installing in that health department a dental area. So wouldn't these people be able to go to that area for their assistance and not be a burden onto the county?