

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

May 13, 2003

LB 407

and very resolute, and resolute does not mean capitulating to things. It means we're going to have to change eligibility. It means we're going to have to change incarceration. It means we're going to have to cut things that we...that affect our own districts or our own constituency. It means making broad changes that I haven't seen us be particularly willing to make on the exemption side, when we've been talking about taxation. We have been looking at things only from the perspective of how it impacts our part of the world and not a broader view. And the difficulty in arriving, in my opinion, at that broader view is that we need so much help we can't...I appreciated what Senator Erdman said about the intent side of it, that we...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...that we were going to provide in his amendment intent about where the cuts are supposed to be made, but we need much more help from the bureaucracy. We need much more help from the executive side to actually do that. We don't run the agencies. They run the agencies. And so we can make intent language, but then that sometimes does not take into account the labor contracts, bumping rights, all those kinds of things. Other states have been much more aggressive in things like Medicaid reform, where they've brought in somebody who...and paid them enormous sums of money for a short period of time and their only job is to get waivers, make cuts in Medicaid. We haven't been that aggressive, but I don't know that we can be that aggressive reactively. I don't know in the next 15 minutes whether we can reorganize Medicaid and so...

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR BROWN: ...I think that we cannot be reactive and I don't know that we have the time to do what we need to do. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Brown. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bromm, members of the Legislature, I think it's been a good discussion so far, and in many ways it