

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

May 14, 2003

LB 407

do a study this year, before the next session, as to all of the funding in the federal qualified health centers, as well as the...we have some look-alikes out there, as to how all...each one of those are funded. Now, the Panhandle Community Services also, yes, they are getting funding from the Health Care Cash Fund, but they also are getting then the...they want the same money as the others are, and now with Columbus on board, Lincoln on board, we really need to do a study to see how we're going to advance these dollars in the future and, frankly, do we have enough dollars to do this in the future.

SPEAKER BROMM: And I assume that one of the goals of that would be to do the most equitable distribution that you can,...

SENATOR JENSEN: Absolutely.

SPEAKER BROMM: ...considering the needs and the population that's being served in the respective areas. Would that be correct?

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes, based on the number of people that are being served and what the needs are in that particular area and if they can receive service anywhere else.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Jensen. And, Senator Smith, I think you've done what any of us ought to do when we find something that doesn't look right to us and we have an area that we think is being...not receiving the funding that they ought to receive in some way. You've done exactly the right thing. I think, however, because the problem is as complicated as it is and because it involves not only...probably not only the clinic that you have concerns about but others that are emerging around the state and some of which are already operating, it is a complex problem. And I would love to do what you want to do, but I think the better course of action is to get behind this study, have input into the study, introduce a bill if you can figure out the formula that you think would be appropriate, and we address it next January and in next session. And I think that would be the wiser course of action and I would encourage you to do that, even though...