

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

May 19, 2003

LB 598

about the pay. There is no doubt that the pay should be more. But I still...even if it were more, I think we're still going to have a problem if we enact term limits. Just in the time that I've been here...I sit on the Health Committee with Senator Jensen. And I've been there three years on that committee. And quite frankly, I couldn't imagine myself, or some of the colleagues that came in in my class, being the Chairman of that committee right now. It's very, very complicated, with Medicare and Medicaid. There's an awful lot to learn. Senator Jensen, Senator Byars, I think the two of them have a really firm grasp on it. But as a new legislator...and you're going to be expected in four years or so to run that committee. And I think Senator Jensen maybe did do that in four years. But it's very, very difficult to run a committee like that in four years and totally understand it. And if you...we talked about the letters that have been written, the editorials that have been written about term limits. The thing that kind of amazes me is, right now, during this budget crisis...and I'm paraphrasing a little bit...but one person will either write a letter to the editor, or he'll send you an e-mail, and it will say, these senators think they're so smart and we should get rid of term limits, but look how badly they're raising taxes, look how terribly bad they are; it's a prime example of why we need term limits. And the very next letter or editorial that will come will talk about these senators that want to get rid of term limits, and yet they don't have the guts to raise taxes enough to cover the cuts in education. Look how bad they are; that's why we need term limits. So I mean, the people are going to complain no matter what you do right now. In my case, the letters that are coming in on either side of the issue, even if we didn't have term limits and I was running for election tomorrow, I doubt that I could be elected again. But I would rise up 100 percent in support of LB 598. I would oppose the bracket motion. And I would hope the rest of you would do the same. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Cunningham. Senator Chambers on the advancement. Senator Chambers. And this will be your third time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, people who are not down here doing this job have no idea what it