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LB 283

together and to respond to the situation that they see facing. Income tax rate: Suppose it made sense for the Legislature to offer a long-term care credit. Suppose in four years the trend now of nursing home costs to the state has continued or maybe even escalated. Maybe it is critically important at that point to try to shift the burden somehow to citizens to provide for their own long-term care. So, in effect, you take away the hammer from that group of, all right, if we drop the rate...we keep the rate the same unless there's a long-term care credit. All of a sudden, that option is gone. Suppose in four years other state have, compared to us, either have higher sales tax rates, lower sales tax rates or something else? We don't know what that is and quite often one of the strong determinants of what we do, the restrictions if you will, are what happens in other states. We're making this decision, or purporting to make the decision, without any of that information. Doesn't seem to me to be wise. The real job of this Legislature is to hand off the state in fiscally the best possible circumstance we can do. In my opinion, that is sticking with the plan that we now have in place. So let's stick with the decisions we made about eliminating programs. I think that's important. It's been painful, but I think it's important we stay there. Let's stick with the decision we made about revenues, tax increases. I think they're absolutely essential. That is the real legacy we have for the future, not some reach out provision that prevents a future Legislature from having the full policy alternatives available to them that they should have. This is an artificial hammer. It simply won't work. This is intended to make you or I feel good; not to help future Legislatures. I oppose the Brown amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Clerk, item on the desk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Landis would move to amend the Brown amendment. (FA1393, Legislative Journal page 2038.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Landis, you're recognized to open on your amendment to the Brown amendment.

SENATOR LANDIS: Could I ask the Speaker or the Clerk, rather, to read the amendment?