

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

March 16, 2004 LB 1084

the assured commitment that he would put something in our statute, which I disagreed with, but he had every opportunity to do it, that we would pay our football players. So we can talk about all those things. But if the senior member is serious that he has concerns that he would like to discuss, I will be here ready to discuss those with him. I will admit that there are things that we could work through if the senior member is willing to do that. However, it appears that we're going to use some time here to talk about a lot of other things. And again, I would encourage the body to vote against the motion to recommit to committee, that we may have this discussion either directly or off the floor to try and work through some of these issues, that we as a state may move forward in the area of Medicaid fraud and investigation of fraud...or of patient neglect and abuse, that we have a system that is modeled similar to other states, that is accountable to those taxpayers who are paying for the services through their tax dollars, both state and federal, and in ensuring that the appropriate checks and balances are in place to ensure that those responsible with investigation are doing it accordingly. Last time I looked at the way that term limits happen, Senator Chambers is going to be a member of the Legislature until 2000...well, it would be December of 2008, and...assuming he gets reelected, obviously. And then that would be the case for myself; and depending upon who may be the Attorney General, that person may change, depending upon how an election there might happen. So it appears to me that...or at least to my perspective, this is a bigger issue. Granted, the local issues or the issues of the day may taint some of the discussion. But I think as we move forward, as far as the state, this is an appropriate step, and we're willing to work through those issues to ensure that the law of our state...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: One minute.

SENATOR ERDMAN: ...recognizes the complexity of this issue, and recognizes the opportunity to remedy the situation and deter those who would seek to fraud our system. And again, I would rise in opposition to the motion to recommit. Thank you, Mr. President.