

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

March 18, 2004 LB 1090

if you will.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So why is there this language that...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: That's reflected in the federal legislation, Senator Chambers. When the bill was introduced, we had the \$58.2 million that come from the federal government for this purpose, and this language reflects the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation of 2003. That's federal language.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So the understanding at that time was that the money would go for services such as health care and education.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Has that language been repealed?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: At the federal level, no, I doubt it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So why then...we're not keeping faith then with the purpose for which this money came to the state, is that true?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, it says, such as health care and education. Certainly if it goes into our General Fund, it's going for education and health care to some degree.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But the amount that's being transferred is not being earmarked for health care and/or education purposes? Is that true?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Probably not specifically, no.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What will it be used for practically speaking?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: In the General Fund? Well, half of our budget is education, as you recall, another 25 percent of it is health care, so 75 percent of our budget is without question education and health care.