

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

March 30, 2004 LB 1089

undergo community service, drug treatment, alcohol treatment and so forth that is done in the community. And what we would be doing with the adoption of this amendment, I'd like to speak more to that rather than to closing the Work Ethic Camp, because I am in agreement with Senator Baker, it's a wonderful program. But the question for us is, can we afford it? Can we afford it, particularly with the outlying years and the budget deficits that we face? Can we strategically do what the Work Ethic Camp was meant to do through the intensive supervision program and not have the brick and motor (sic) approach that is embodied with the Work Ethic Camp? So, yes, this is a bit unusual. I did not even know if I was going to be offering this amendment today. I ultimately, with the offering of the amendment, members, it's a chance for us to seize an opportunity. It's a chance for us to recognize just how severe...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: ...our budget deficit is and just how willing...we can show the citizens how willing we are to look at alternatives, to look and to see what we can do, to go to every inch of our budget in terms of what we can do. This is not a novel idea. The Work Ethic Camp got back in, in the Appropriations Committee hearings, at our very last hearing before we submitted our budget. The Department of Corrections offered the Work Ethic Camp, to close the Work Ethic Camp, last year as part of their budget...as part of their budget deficit approach. They came to us with the closure of the Work Ethic Camp last year. It was only by the last vote in the Appropriations Committee that the appropriation for the Work Ethic Camp was put back in. So this is not a novel idea. This is not brand new. This was brought to us by the Department of Corrections last year...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: ...and it ultimately failed on the last vote. Thank you, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Synowiecki. You've heard the closing on AM3400 to LB 1089. The question before the body