

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

April 4, 2005

LB 709

to get some of that money back from the federal government. That remains to be seen. I hope that happens. But it's just another one of those issues that the federal government has put upon us. Now, you know, shall we or shouldn't we? Should we do this now, or should we wait for the federal government to act? I think that any information that we can get from this study, from working through this, is going to help us, no matter what the federal government does, and will help us tremendously. So I don't...I say, now is the time to act, not wait until the federal government decides what they want to do, if they do anything at all. And that seems to be such a logjam back there anymore, I don't see how anything can come out of the federal government other than more cost to the states. So I am...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...concerned about that. I feel that now is the time to do this. I've got kids, grandkids that I want to ensure that, should they need services, that they're there for them. And I think we should all look at that. What are we passing on to the next generation? And so we can wait until 2010, we can wait till 2014 before we do anything. But at 2014, boy, there's a lot of things that have to happen. Either we have to cut everything else the state does and only fund Medicaid and education, or we can start to plan for that now. I think now is the time to do that. To delay, I think, is irresponsible. You're going to have to make that decision. I think that LB 709, the time has come for this legislation to move ahead. Thank you, Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Janssen...Jensen, I should say. Senator Chambers, you are next in line to speak, followed by Senators Erdman, Howard, and Byars.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, the population in Nebraska is growing older. They are not productive, in terms of earning money and paying taxes. Nebraska's population is not growing; it's growing older. And you all are going to be talking about giving away \$30 million more to business on top of what you're already giving them away...giving away to them. There was an article the other day on the front page of the Omaha