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FLOOR DEBATE

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throughout the state. The discussion must be held statewide. We have a vested interest in the decision. Senator Chambers, Senator Byars, they have specific interest for individuals that they believe the state has harmed. And I would not disagree with them at all. We have made decisions in this body, based on circumstances beyond our control, that we were not prepared for. Did anybody that was here enjoy the vote on LB 8? No. Do we want to do that again? I don't. But it appears that that's more preferable to some. Let's get to the discussion. Let's gather these ideas that people have, to make sure that what's in the language of the bill and what we're going to direct a group of individuals who...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR ERDMAN: ...are accountable to us, let's direct them to solve the problem. And if it's not here, let's hear about what they are. Senator Beutler has been exceptional in stepping up and saying, I think this makes sense, I think this would be a good idea, I think this solves a problem that's perceived, knowing what your intent is. That's what this is about. Absolutely. And so I will continue to look forward to the discussion. On the amendment before us, again, I rise in support of Senator Beutler's amendment. I think it is wholly appropriate for us to outline the balance that must be achieved in order for this process to be fair. And I believe that Senator Beutler's amendment to point out the findings and the facts of the system and the value that it currently serves is wholly appropriate to be amended into this proposal. And so I rise in support of AM1027. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Howard, your light is next.

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Madam Chairman...Chairperson. I have some deep concerns about this bill. And individuals have come to me and asked me why I did not vote to support it passing out of committee. Medicaid is a very large issue. And over the course of time, many programs have been put into place to address it, to hold down the cost, to keep down the number of individuals that would be eligible for services. There will