

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

April 5, 2005

LB 709

need services from getting any? We need to manage that. Then how many of those people are getting first dollars from General Funds rather than having Medicaid match because we haven't put...allowed them to get Medicaid and we're using General Fund dollars to support that? I just think it's so important that we look at that. And I think we've had an example here of how we work with these numbers, and what numbers do we have that are appropriate and what aren't. I have a lot of confidence in our Legislative Fiscal Office and depend on them a lot. The numbers that I quoted from yesterday were directly given to us by Dick Nelson from the Health and Human Services Department relative to Medicaid increases, and those percentages were ones that I rely on. Now I've gotten two different sets of numbers. Now I'm dealing with three sets of numbers since we've started this debate because there are other influences on this that weren't plugged in. But some were plugged in; some weren't. And so let's keep that in mind and keep that open as far as our dialogue is concerned. I'm not going to put my light back on. I think I've said about everything I can possibly...

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: One minute.

SENATOR BYARS: ...say relative to this. I'm not opposed to a study. I'm opposed to a study in a vacuum. I am in favor of increased membership. I am supportive of Senator Erdman's creativity and moving forward in that direction, Senator Jensen's leadership. I want to make that clear. I never ever get personal in this body, but I get very passionate in supporting the people who don't have anyone in here to support them, and that's the poor, the disabled, and the elderly. They're all extremely vulnerable and I won't allow anything to happen, with every breath of my body, that's going to affect them negatively. So I'm not going to put my light on again. I ask you all to think through this. We have a study. We have a study. It will come back to this...to this body for legislative action next year, while I'm still here,...

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Time.

SENATOR BYARS: ...and I can have an input in that process.