

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

April 5, 2005

LB 709

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Byars, you're recognized to open on AM1004.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. This is an amendment that I would like to take up. I think throughout the conversation, the dialogue relative to this issue on the floor certainly shouldn't be anything that would be offensive in any way, but clarifies in the language and addresses some of the fears that I've talked about. I have given this amendment to Senator Erdman a couple of days ago and he's been very busy and hasn't had time, I'm sure, to react to the amendment, so I would like to hear what his opinion is. On page 1, line 23, and this is an amendment to the standing committee amendments to AM0772, on page 1, line 23, after "spending," insert "without shifting the cost of providing medical services to county government or to the providers of care." I think those of us who have stood up and who have talked relative to what the federal government has...the impact it has had on us with mandates and with cost shifts and if we go forward and if Congress does make changes, obviously it seems to be the feeling of this body that we want to do independent study. So I think this is unoffensive. I think it makes a policy statement on the part of this body that we are not going to take the same type of avenues that the feds have done with us, having some serious effects from time to time, and just very clearly says we will not be cost-shifters of providing medical services and push it down to county government or the providers of care. And I would yield the balance of my time to Senator Erdman.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Erdman, about eight minutes.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. If Senator Byars would yield to a couple questions.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Byars, would you yield, please?

SENATOR BYARS: Yes, I will.