

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

April 5, 2005

LB 709

to shift the costs to somebody else. This is a problem that the state of Nebraska has. This is an agreement that we have with the federal government to provide services to the citizens of the state. Now, Senator Chambers has pointed out in the past that we have certain authorities over different entities and we can decide what's appropriate and what's not appropriate. My position, my philosophy, it's not appropriate for us to say the state has got a problem, now it's your problem. That's not my goal. That's not my intent. But there may be opportunities to improve the system that we have. That might be in partnership. And if we have a prohibition, if the providers would be willing to accept an opportunity like that, a copay or something like that, I don't want to preclude us from that opportunity. And so I want to make sure that as we go through this discussion, if there are legitimate concerns, and Senator Chambers has pointed those out and others will as well, that we go through in a measured step. And we have looked at these and Senator Beutler and I have discussed these. Senator Byars and I have discussed his amendments. We're not yet in agreement, but I do think that there is an opportunity to clarify it, but my concern is that the way that it is now it may not fully encapsulate the true intent of what I'm hearing Senator Byars saying and what others are hearing, and back and forth. So I'm going to be...if we do go to a vote here fairly soon, I will probably just wait and see what the body chooses to do, but I would...I will continue to try to discuss this issue with Senator Byars. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Further discussion from the floor? Senator Byars, you're recognized to close on AM1004.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I think Senator Erdman and I will continue to have open dialogue. I think it is important that we, as a matter of personal policy, do adopt this amendment. I have another amendment that will follow this afternoon that I think also puts in some public policy intent. I will certainly work...as we adopt these amendments, I will certainly work with Senator Erdman if there are word changes that won't change intent. I'll work with him on language between now and Select File to try to find something that is palatable to both of us. But it's extremely important