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

April 11, 2005 LB 551

send us people and want us to treat people just because they've got in trouble with one of the substances. The one I want to talk about most is alcohol because the other substances outside say, alcohol, marijuana is what I'll talk about...the other substances, usually if they're using them, we're talking about addiction almost immediately. But there's no sense in sending somebody to treatment and sending somebody to counseling who may not be an alcoholic or a drug addict. And this happens on a regular basis, that the society wants these people to have treatment and wants then to have counseling because it thinks it's going to make them well. There's not a counselor out there I know that can heal anybody. If you're not willing and wanting to change, you can work any program and any counselor. I've been in the business for 23 years, and I know that I'm taken for a ride at least once or twice a month, if not more. don't heal people, but we offer a program, and sometimes we offer programs to people who don't need it because we sell programs. And that, I think the counselors are working on much more closely together now in the state than they ever did before. We must work on society more to say that, you know ... I have people for instance, judges who send me people who want them to have treatment, think we're going to heal them. But they don't need any aftercare and they don't need any follow-up afterwards. And they don't require any self-help meetings in the meantime. Go over and see Dwite for...once a week for 14 weeks and you'll be healed. That doesn't happen. Senator Jensen's bill here is a good bill. I am supportive of it. I know that I'm not really talking about that, but I have some real frustrations in the counseling business. I see Senator Synowiecki down there looking at me. We worked together for years--it's when he was a probation officer and I as a counselor--how this business can be overused, and by being overused, cutting out services for some of those people who really need it. So, what Senator Howard is talking about, I would think if an employer wants a special counselor to go to, then the employer ought to pay for it. If they want the employee or the candidate to pay for it, then I think they ought to be able to pick their own. And can there be games played with that? There could be games played on either side, people, either side. Thank you.