

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

April 25, 2005 LB 40

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: I think it's very important that we now have an opportunity to rectify this. I would challenge members of the Legislature to come up with a better way, a better method, of linking services and housing than to do it via our six regional behavioral health governing boards. I can't think of a better way to marriage the interest of the consumer of mental health services, services and housing, than to do it the way Senator Redfield is proposing in AM1227. I very much support the amendment. I was happy to work with Senator Redfield in its development, and I want to thank her again for bringing this. And I would encourage members to support the amendment. Thank you, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Synowiecki. Senator Flood.

SENATOR FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I, too, want to commend Senators Redfield, Synowiecki, and Jensen for putting together what could have been a train wreck or disaster given all the different interests. This bill at first glance, before the amendment was put together, seemed to pit two very worthwhile state interests, that being affordable housing for the working poor against the behavioral health residential needs that Senator Synowiecki just talked about. A lot of members here may not be aware of what the Affordable Housing Trust Fund does, but it's a bricks and mortar program that gets the working poor into a house. And a house for the working poor is a dream come true. It's a sign of ownership, stability, comfort. It's a place to raise a family and you've got ownership. It's your own. That builds a better citizen and that connects someone to their community. One of my concerns is that two years from now somebody in this body or maybe a governor will come back and attempt to raid the bricks and mortar Affordable Housing Trust Fund again. And I think it's my intent that we stick to it and that we make sure this money is there for the folks that need it. My district and I'm sure across the state I see housing developments that are built with this money and it ties someone into the community. You want to talk about connecting folks to