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LB 425

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Friend. Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Johnson. Senator Schimek, on AM1374 to the committee amendments.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. Thank you. Mr. President and members, I've been listening, and the more I listen, the more I think, first, I don't want to be drawn into that political argument, because it gets us nowhere. What I want to try to do is, in my own mind, determine that this is the best use of this money. And to date, I haven't heard anybody say that there has been an indication from providers that this program is really needed, and that they've heard from...I haven't heard from a single person about this particular amendment, saying that it's needed, there's a desperate shortage of services, or anything like that. We're talking \$.5 million here. This is a \$.5 million amendment. And I guess I would prefer to put it on hold, anyway, Senator Foley, and have you come back in and show us that there is a need. That...you know, that can happen next year. The funds are going to be there. And if it is necessary and needed, fine. But what I've heard so far is that--at least, this is from the Appropriations Committee--so far, we're taking care of these kinds of programs pretty well right now. So at this point, I'm not going to support the amendment either. I would like to be assured that this is really necessary, and that we're not just throwing money down a well, so to speak. And I do trust the Appropriations Committee to look at the broad picture and decide which of these services are most necessary. So I will be supporting the Appropriations Committee regarding this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Johnson, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I feel much like what Senator Schimek has just expressed. Yesterday, someone asked me where I stood now that we're getting down to the financial aspects and considerations for the next couple of years. And I said, we've had a very hardworking Appropriations Committee working virtually every day since this Legislature has started. It's going to take an awfully good