

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

May 5, 2005

LB 425

adopted yesterday. We now have pending a motion to reconsider the vote on AM1374. (Legislative Journal pages 1369-1370.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Clerk. Senator Schimek, would you like to open on your motion to reconsider the vote taken?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I come before you today to ask you to think about what we did yesterday, and a motion to reconsider takes a majority vote. And if it is...if we do vote by majority to reconsider, then the amendment on the bill goes away, unless the introducer of the amendment wants to take up the amendment again at that point, at which time it would again take 25 votes to attach the amendment again to the bill. And I just...I just tell you that because I think that, in thinking about whether you want to vote to reconsider or not, you should also decide whether you can vote to attach the bill again or not. Don't vote for one if you intend to do the other, is what I'm saying to you. I offer this motion to reconsider because I was alarmed yesterday by what this Legislature did in adopting the Foley amendment. We're talking about half a million dollars here, a half a million dollars, and that's taxpayer money. I don't care if it's federal money or state money; it's still taxpayer money. And I think it was done rather on the spur of the moment as far as most of us are concerned, and it was done without adequate information to make an informed decision. When you're making a decision to spend a half a million dollars, and I can remember us quibbling over \$10,000 on this floor before, when you're making that kind of decision there's certain questions that each of us should be asking ourselves. First of all, is this program needed? I did not hear anything on the floor yesterday that either confirmed or dissuaded us that the program is needed. There was nothing that was talked about as far as some of our agencies that already provide these kinds of services, that they're asking for more money or they're not being able to serve the people that they're being asked to serve. I don't know about you, but I haven't heard from one of those agencies, nor have I heard from any constituent who says that she is not getting these kinds of services. I'm not saying they're not out there, but I don't believe that it's documented, and I don't know how we can build a program when we don't even know what the