

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

May 5, 2005

LB 425

not kept pace with their costs. And this is certainly true for those who are providing for developmental disabilities, but it's probably just as true for all of the other service providers there are out there. And I know that it's a tough call. I know that we have to be careful how we prioritize things, but these are the people who are taking care of our most vulnerable citizens, and I am going to be supporting the Byars amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. President, members of the body, I want to give you just a little history. Ever since I signed my...before the ink was dry on my appointment, I became involved with those in the developmentally disabled situations. And over the years, I have worked very, very hard with others to get that pay equity up, because in the beginning, you have...I've found you have very, very dedicated people working with these people, but you can only be so dedicated, because you still have to make a living. And over the years, we did work very hard to get that pay equity up to where it is, and so I appreciate what Senator Byars is doing, but I hope that he can find another avenue to find this money between now and next year, because in Appropriations, I think we did what we could and over the years we have given them as much as we have increased their dollars, and this year we were unable to do that. So the 2 percent, they're very close to the 100 percent. So I will do everything I can between now and next session and...to see how we can perhaps fund that at that time. But in the meantime, I believe that Senator Byars can work with Senator Pederson and others and try to find those dollars in some other fund to bring this pay equity up. I would certainly appreciate that, but I am going along with the Appropriations Committee because I think we did what we had to do, but I do appreciate where these folks are. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Engel. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this was kind of what I was worried about as we