

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

May 25, 2005

LB 40

this process all the way through. People in the communities that serve the behavioral...or, the needs of those with mental illness have been involved. So there's been a large, large coalition that has worked on this. The question was asked yesterday, why should I vote for this? Well, if you're a fiscal conservative, you can tell your constituents that in fact you think it's more reasonable to spend \$500 a month instead of \$500 a day in order to deliver services. If you're a compassionate conservative, then you can tell people it's because you think it's important that people can find a place to receive these services in their own communities, near their friends and their families, places where they can go back and return to their normal lives, with assistance. That's good for them, that's good for their friends and family, that's good for the community. You can also tell them that the Affordable Housing Trust Fund was made whole from the action taken by the Legislature last year. We kept a promise to make them whole, and this bill will do that. You can also tell them that there was a concern whether the behavioral health funding, the rental assistance, might start eating up all of the funds available for other people of low income. And you can tell them that this bill actually carves out a very specific niche, and it is limited only to housing needs. It is not going to encroach on any kind of medical delivery. It is only housing needs, as the Affordable Housing Trust Fund was designed to do. And in fact, it is limited, and will not encroach on the rest of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. So you can tell them that it saves costs. You can tell them that it saves people. You can tell them that the Legislature is taking responsible action to meet the needs of all of the different interests involved. I ask for your advancement of the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. You've heard the closing on AM1730. The question before the body is, shall that amendment be adopted? All in favor vote aye; opposed, nay. We're voting on the adoption of the Redfield amendment, AM1730 to LB 40. Have you all voted who care to? Record please, Mister...or, Madam Clerk, rather.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 29 ayes, 5 nays on adoption of the amendment, Mr. President.