

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

January 12, 2006 LB 454

offices, they miss the debate. Perhaps they want to speak. If they turn on their light, they've got to stay here until they're called on. Somebody may suddenly, in debate, put in a call of the house, and here you have to come running, boogity, boogity, boogity. So in the remaining time that some of my colleagues have, if those of us who are challenging term limits turn out not to be successful, they, along with those of us who have more time, should spend some of it trying to create a clear picture of what the Legislature is about and what it is that we do. You should start by emphasizing that we're not getting those salaries that people get in Congress. I got a letter just the other day, lambasting us for giving ourselves plush insurance programs, adding to the amount we get in our pensions every session, giving ourselves a yearly increase in salary. This was written by a person who was irate and concluded, this is why we need term limits. That kind of ignorance is vincible, which means it can be corrected with information if the person is willing to accept it. Invincible ignorance is that type which cannot be overcome, no matter what. This state is plagued by many people who have opinions on everything about which they are profoundly ignorant. I do blame the schools, to a great extent. Children are not to educate themselves. Parents don't have to educate their children. We encourage their involvement, but if I as a parent am illiterate, that does not mean the teacher is excused from his or her responsibility to teach my child how to read in the classroom. But you know what we've let the teachers get away with saying? Well, the parents don't read books, the parents don't have books, so I can't teach these children. Then you ought to be out of there. You shouldn't be there as a teacher. It would be like saying the only ones who can come into a hospital and expect a positive result are those who are not sick. The hospital is where ill people go to be treated and be restored to health to the extent that can be achieved. And if health cannot be restored, at least receive the kind of treatment which is possible and available under the circumstances. So when we have schools that do not teach the children, there are teachers who do not understand how the government operates, superintendents and other administrators who are equally ignorant, but more culpable because they should know better, we on the floor of the Legislature should be talking about those things. And this session, if we get to the