

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

March 16, 2006

LB 562

phone calls for you, and I did, to see if we could find some money other than General Funds, because those are always so tough to win. We talked about that. You didn't mention it. I have been very, very concerned about the monopoly that a certain select group of providers has over this program. They have a stranglehold on this program, Planned Parenthood, peeling off 35, 45 percent of the monies year after year after year. That's not right. It's not fair to tell a poor woman in Lancaster County, with a population of a quarter of a million people, you've got one choice, you've got one choice if you want to be served under this program; you go to the Planned Parenthood abortion clinic and if you don't like that, hitch a ride to Beatrice or hitch a ride to Tecumseh, because those are your options. That's not fair and I've raised that question over and over again. I crafted language to break that monopoly and to open up this program to more providers, and I agreed to more funding which I said, from my opening speech, I was willing to do. Senator Chambers isn't happy about the way I answered his questions. I'm not going to take all the bate that he throws at me. I don't have to do that. Senator Chambers doesn't even understand this program, doesn't even understand it. He says that the language in my amendment which allows for HHS to contract with providers that don't do all of the services listed is my deliberate attempt to make sure that we can get some agencies in there that don't do family planning. That's not it at all. It relates to the services mentioned in this section, which are not family planning services.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR FOLEY: What the amendment says is you don't have to do each and every one of those nonfamily planning services in order to get a contract under this program. You can do the key two or three services that are offered under this program--the Pap smears, chlamydia tests, and the medications. You could do those three; you wouldn't have to do the more high-tech things because fewer...a far fewer number of the women who come in need those more high-tech services. From my opening speech two or three days ago when we started out on this thing, Senator Chambers I think was the first light on and instantly he inflamed the issue. I wasn't going to add fuel to the fire by