

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

March 23, 2006 LB 1060

believe in what you're doing. I believe that it's important to have law enforcement cooperate for the purpose of arresting individuals that are manufacturing, selling, smoking, injecting, snorting methamphetamine, or whatever controlled substance we're talking about. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Flood. Chair recognizes Senator Chambers. Chambers isn't in the Chamber. Okay. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Madam Speaker and members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose Senator Pederson's amendment. I guess I'm in a little bit of a dither. I support Senator Chambers' amendment, but I will oppose the underlying bill. There's no way, to me, that we can pick up all of the federal funds that are going to be...or the lack of federal funds that are going to be dropped on us, not only this year but into the future. There's a lot of good programs that we're going to have to probably give up over time, as the federal government downsizes, quote. Ought to put a smiley on that one. But the point is we're going to have to balance our own budgets. Federal government isn't doing a very good job of that, but I will be darned if we ought to drop that down to the state level and get us in those kinds of problems that we're going to have ahead. And it looks like to me that this is a good place to start. I know those funds are needed. I haven't gone to the lobby, but I know what they're going to say. They're needed locally. But we're going to have to draw the line in here somewhere as time goes along, and not pick up these loss of federal funds. And I would suggest that next year get ready for another onslaught as a lot of these things are dropped back to the states from the federal level, as they opt out. In a lot of ways it's copping out, I think. But to put the burdens on the state is going to be long-term turmoil for us, and it looks like to me, look ahead, you're going to have to decide where to go in education and other things like that, where the dollars are going to go. Because this could well lead to the same kind of situation we have in Medicaid, where it's out of control. I don't know all the answers to it, but I think increasing the education possibilities for all students in this state would be probably, over time, money better spent. It's not to diminish the problem of meth. I recognize it as a