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

March 23, 2006 LB 1060

stop to consider the high turnover with Health and Human Services, usually a new employee comes in, six months minimum case management training, child protection service training. That training costs \$10,000, but it's federal money so we're not going to worry too much about that, I'm sure. They usually last about four months after coming out of training. The job is overwhelming. The resources are practically nonexistent, and the support systems offered to the new worker are really, really minimal. Yes, Senator Smith is right, I did come in earlier and ask for appropriations for an early intervention program. This isn't a program that I imagined up; that I thought, oh, what a good idea, I'll bring that to the ... I'll bring that to the floor, they might like it. No. No. This was the first recommendation in the Governor's task force, the study I just referred to. And I'm going to read this to you, for as long as I have time. This is a recommendation for implementation of voluntary universal home visitation services for new parents on a statewide basis. Research has demonstrated the effectiveness of home visitation services in the prevention of maltreatment and the promotion of other preventative outcomes for children and families. A national task force on community prevention services reviewed 21 home visitation studies, 2 of which were Healthy Family (sic) America programs. Studies reviewed by the task force suggested that approximately, and here's an important number, 40 percent of maltreatment episodes might be prevented through programs of early childhood home visits. Both abuse and neglect reports, and fatal and nonfatal injuries were reduced. The actual reduction in abuse/neglect may be greater than 40 percent because the presence of home visitors will increase the likelihood of observing abuse, neglect, and injuries. The study found that programs with professional home visitors, such as nurses--48.7 reduction in...percent reduction in child abuse, or mental health workers--44.5 percent reduction, were more beneficial than programs with paraprofessional visitors; 17.7 percent median reduction, but some programs showed no reduction. Research that each dollar spent on prevention approximately...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.