

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

April 3, 2006            LB 1248

address that. We have Medicaid, federal Medicaid, which is...they're trying to balance the budget back there by cutting Medicaid, about \$1 million the way I see it that they...well, better than that, but I don't know what it's going to mean to the state. But substantial dollars that we were getting in Medicaid are also going to be cut. So you've got this two-edged sword: one, we're not addressing it; and also the dollars are being cut from the federal government back to the state. So I want you to tell me what direction you want to go, because we don't have to pass this. We don't have to pass it this year. We don't have to pass it on April 3 on to Select File. We can ignore this. I can sit and vote on the rest of the bills, take pleasure in doing that, and don't have to proceed. That is our choice.

SENATOR BAKER: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: But I think to do nothing is not responsible also. That is what I said to the committee when they first met at the close of the last session, and they worked tirelessly and met every single month, taking testimony. I think that we can develop a Medicaid system without cutting eligibles, without cutting services if we look at other things. I have an amendment on there to look at parity, health insurance parity, and we would fund an actuary to do that, and I think that's got great possibilities. I like the long-term care partnership that Senator Cunningham has got. Those are going to have a great deal of effect as where we move forward. But you tell me. Do we want to move forward, or do we want to maintain the same system as we have right now?

SENATOR BAKER: Time.

SENATOR JENSEN: I think that's where we are. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. And I'd like to continue on with a similar thought of Senator Jensen, but kind of in the context of specifically