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FLOOR DEBATE

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down and scream and yell as long as I'm here because that was established to...for health care for this state. And I think if we use it wisely, we...it will be there a hundred years from now and hopefully be growing. So with that and with those thoughts I'll let you make your own judgment whether we should take \$8,000 and get the EMT program up and going or do you want to put it off for...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...for one year and try to find dollars to do that. But I will...I'm telling you I will introduce a bill this next year to prohibit the tampering with these funds and to just pull out these funds because they're just sitting there because we're wise enough to hold a little back. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, if I understand what I'm hearing correctly, and that is that LB 1033 is a great idea with the exception of Senator Suttle's concerns as being a nurse herself with that, but what I understand from Senator Byars and Senator Jensen, that LB 1033 is a great idea, and I think so too. I think the battle should be waged on the A bill. I'm concerned that the debate that's been held here is going to lend people to think that LB 1033 is not a sound bill, and it is. It came out of the 407 process, as Senator Wickersham pointed out. This was actually written by a group of individuals who are concerned about this. There were nurses at the table, there were EMTs at the table, the Department of License and Regulation were at the table to write this bill. The amendments that were adopted to this bill came out of further discussion from our committee with the Nurses Association and other organizations who were concerned. We have alleviated most of their concerns. If there are still concerns it's more of a scope of practice issue and I don't debate that one bit. But what I'm telling you is that LB 1033 is a sound bill. If you're worried about the money, that's the A bill. I would encourage you to vote green on this. The Health Committee has put a lot of work into it. I have a