

Secretary Brocker:

Vote explanation. SB 5520 was listed as a 10.4% above current service levels. In questioning of Joint Ways & Means Committee members, nobody could explain why the budget was above 6% which is inflation except that nobody could vote against the Ombudsman. The Long Term Care Ombudsman does very good work but needs to be treated equally with all other boards, commissions and citizens. Since no member could provide the reasoning I voted NO at the time of passage. Without explanation as to any increase in any budget, this State Senator is voting against budgets that rise above inflation. This is reflected in other vote explanations.

Sen Boquist