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## Local News

### "Family Care" Subject of Impeachment Hearings

Gov. Rod Blagojevich is accused of bypassing a legislative rule-making authority in expanding the Family Care program. The director and chief of staff of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services testified Thursday morning before the House impeachment inquiry committee that the governor wanted to greatly expand the income guidelines under which Illinoisans could participate.

That s in spite of the decision of the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules not to allow the expansion. JCAR executive director Vicki Thomas, under questioning from State Rep. Roger Eddy (R-Hutsonville), said a Healthcare staff member informally apologized to her that the administration would be going ahead anyway. Thomas identified that person as Healthcare chief of staff Tammi Hoffman.

Thomas says in her view, the Blagojevich administration blatantly abuses its authority, by far the worst she has seen in 17 years running JCAR. Blagojevich attorney Sam Adam suggested the governor cares more about helping sick kids than he does about bureaucracy. State Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie (D-Chicago), the committee chairman, shot Adam down quickly, saying, "We're not that kind of jury, I'm sorry to have to tell ya."

(Illinois Radio Network)  
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