

This is an unbelievable amount of money. I think everybody in the state has to recognize the significance of spending \$300 million over the course of five years. And I think, again, we've got to say no, start saying...we were willing to on the Medicaid side say no to some things.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: I think we have to start saying no to some of these expenditures that eventually drive up the cost of health insurance, drive up the cost of Medicaid. But out of that \$125 million, 116 million is in Douglas, Sarpy and Lancaster County. So all the rural areas of the state account for something like \$9 million of the proposals, 116 million in Douglas, Sarpy and Lancaster County, and even none of it actually out of Lancaster County at this point. And I think that if Senator Byars is willing to focus on the rural needs and change his amendment so it would be rural oriented, I think that's something I could live with because the vast bulk of the expenditures are in the urban areas right now and, for me, that seems to make the most sense. If we're going to have to cut back on this, I would...I would recognize the rural problems and perhaps make an adjustment there in exchange for retaining the urban problem which is the...must be 90 plus percent of the expenditures. And so I'm offering to Senator Byars a willingness to work with him on that, but, again,...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR WESELY: ...I think there's good reason why we need to consider this sort of action.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Before we proceed, I would like to call the senators' attention to the south balcony. Special guests today of Senator Schimek are 53 sixth graders from Everett Elementary in Lincoln and their teacher. Would you please rise and be recognized. Welcome to the Chamber. Thank you. Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Yes, Madam Chair, I would like to withdraw my amendment to the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Byars. Mr. Clerk, an additional amendment.