

and I think 827 was attempting to deal with that. But I think the only way you're going to do this effectively across the state is to have a statewide plan and to require hospitals to participate in that plan and I think what Senator Byars effectively did was take that motivation away, so I have some serious concerns now about where we are with 827. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Horgan. Senator Elmer. Senator Elmer. Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Madam President and members. This is a bill now in its current form that it...I think it really attempts to do an awful lot with 1.3 million dollars. I wished we could do all the things in here that Senator Wesely wants to do. When you start setting up health care services, regional planning efforts, regional health care boards, health care data banks, high-risk pregnant women, physician referrals for Medicaid clients, the health care grants for local areas with 1.3 million dollars I think you've got an awfully, awfully big menu there for 1.3 million dollars. It just seems like we're going to set up a lot of paperwork also for our local hospitals. They're going to have to go through an awfully lot of extra paperwork. That's going to have to be an awfully lot of extra work that goes into a program like this. The federal government, as Senator Byars stated, is currently coming up with a plan and we really don't know what that plan is going to be. I guess no one has really talked also about the cigarette tax. This is another...this is the way that the 1.3 million is going to be raised. I know it's always easy to raise sin taxes, but we raised seven cents the other day and I think we probably hit the limit on that. If I was assured, I guess, that this plan was actually going to do what Senator Wesely wants to do, it wouldn't be so hard to oppose because I think there's some good things in here, but I just don't see how you're going to be able to do all these things with 1.3 million dollars. I think there's...it's just going to put a...I guess kind of a carrot out there and then, next year, we have to come back and probably raise another 10 to 25 million dollars if we really want to do what this plan sets out to do. So, at this time, it's going to be real hard for me to support a plan like this until, I think, we actually see what the federal government's going to do and what the actual costs are going to be for our local hospitals and health care people. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Senator