

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would rise to support Senator Hall's amendment. I'd like to spend some time on Senator Schmit's comments because they are sobering comments and all of us are guilty in part to one extent or another. I could expand on that for a long time, and I have seen more change than anybody else here, and how this body operates, only because I have been here longer. But that is a subject for another day. And by the way, there is a lot of artificial solutions floating around to cure that that are wrong, too, but that is for another day, too. Senator Wesely pointed out there is discussions taking place that are encouraging. I suspect that encouragement will start to dissipate about 6:30 p.m., today. That is when we no longer consider legislation. Two days ago we were dealing with judicial districts, no matter whether it was right or wrong, but for a decade we dealt with promises of we are going to come back with a solution. And I suspect this is another one of those. Now, historically, what we do in this body, what we are asked to do, rather, and it is a tough decision, well, we will study it, and study, as always, seems a pretty reasonable solution. Ninety percent of the time I think studies are for deferral, not to solve. Eventually, maybe it does get done, but Senator Moore has made comments which I hope we will repeat two or three times on some more bills that are coming up today, I assume will come up, because he has pointed out the major problem this state is going to have. We are on the eve of major program reductions because of inability to finance, and it is the accumulative consequences of a whole lot of things, but certainly the issue of the medical costs is one of them. It is not only a tax cost, of course. It is also a cost to individuals, and there is also the issue of quality of service, and some of them are contradictory. But I believe that those who have stated that this is a major issue that needs to be addressed are exactly correct, and I am in support of Senator Hall's amendment, even though, as others have said, I don't consider this necessarily a solution, but I do believe it is the kind of action that we have to take to get people to understand that the issue is serious, the problem is real. It is here. It is not next year, and this is a step to start to make everybody sit down and understand what the problem is, and that deferral is not the answer.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Question.