

Point number two, I think it's interesting when we get back to whether it will be the Governor's original 50 million dollar provider tax or whether we get some of these areas. One of the things that we're doing is we're saying, here's a mandated bene...here's a mandated law, the provider, private provider has to do so by the law, and yet we're going to say we're unwilling to fund the whole thing. And one of the points I think we should make is if we're going to fund an increase, we should get the monies and fund the increase on General Fund because that's what the law is we want to do. But if we continue to say, here's what we're going to pass federally and statewide that you have to do, oh, by the way, to help fund it we're going to increase your fee so we can take the money and give it back to you at some point, at some level I think the public is going to say that's not a real good way to run the policies and it isn't a way to...a good way to continue running policies and we're going to have to at some point go back and rethink the ideas. And I think we'll get to some of those when we get to some of the other amendments and bills that will be coming up and some of the revenue budget discussions later on this year. We, as a body, have some real difficult answers. This one will not, I don't believe, increase the number of Medicaid patients seen but it certainly will, hopefully, hold the line. And to that end, I am supportive.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Seeing no further lights on, Senator Wesely, did you wish to close on the committee amendments?

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah, again, I'll...the committee amendments do reduce the amount of the increase to \$300 and clarify where the money goes, and then I'll talk more about the concept on the bill itself. So I would ask for adoption of the amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: You've heard the closing on the committee amendments. We'll now vote on the committee amendments to LB 805. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Wesely, on the bill.