

pronunciation of my last name again. Senator Bromm, it's Hohenstein. I do have a couple of questions, though, Senator Bromm. You raise an interesting issue on cost. Did the department tell you...did they give you an estimate of how many calls they thought they would look at? Senator Bromm, did the department tell you that? Any estimate of how many calls they thought they might get?

SENATOR BROMM: I'm relying on discussion I simply had with Senator Vrtiska, one of the sponsors.

SENATOR HOHENSTEIN: Okay, maybe...let me...Senator Vrtiska, did you have any idea, did the department tell you approximately how many calls they thought they might get with the hot line like this?

SENATOR VRTISKA: No, they didn't. And when Senator Bromm is relying on me, he doesn't have very much reliability.

SENATOR HOHENSTEIN: Well Senator Vrtiska, I strongly disagree. I think you're a very reliable source. I would have taken your suggestion beside your doctor the other day. I wouldn't believe your doctor, but I would believe you. I guess the whole point of this is frankly they can tell you it's not going to cost anything. But if in fact they get 1,000, 2,000 calls, and I agree with Senator Bromm that this is a responsibility of all of us, but they're the agency that manages the operation of the Medicaid program; and they have the responsibility to make sure it's operating properly. Let's say they get 1,000 calls or 2,000 calls. What are they going to do with those calls? They're going to have to assign somebody to do something with them. They're not just going to let them...if they're just going to let them sit, what's the point? They're going to have to do something with those calls. This is not a cost-free operation and the department is continually under extreme constraint. Now this may be a good way to spend the money. This may be a good way to do it. But you know, there's a local office everywhere. They don't have to make a long distance call. They can make that call. If we have to educate the people, you know, you can report fraud and abuse. You can call the local office and say I think there's something wrong. I mean...I guess my point was simply this, if we think this is the way to solve fraud and abuse in the Medicaid system in Nebraska by establishing a toll-free number; and again, Senator Day, Senator Vrtiska, nothing intended here personally, obviously