

May 7, 1981

LB 389

and, say, five years from now after the program is in effect and there are no limits on the funding of it, what would the fiscal impact be in those situations?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, it's kind of hard to estimate but in talking to John Knight in the Welfare Department, although it is hard, again it is hard to estimate, they feel that the program may end up paying for itself because it is a lower cost alternative to caring for these people than some of the other choices they have now. We're helping them in the home than outside of the home.

SENATOR LAMB: Do you have any guarantees in that regard?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, I think you can't really....I think you can set up a program that will do that, but it depends on a number of factors, and the other states that have this program they found it to be very cost effective. And I think again though it is sometimes hard to estimate exactly how much the savings are. I can think you can anticipate that the program will be one that will be very...cost benefit ratio is a high one for the state. But as to the actual figures, until we try it we really don't know.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Senator Wesely. I guess my reservations about the bill are not in regard to the theoretical provisions of the bill but actually the actual practical application. We have a number of bills before this Legislature from time to time that are touted as being bills that will save the state money, will do many great things, and after the program is in effect, we find that the costs are much higher than anticipated. The cost savings are much less than were anticipated, and we get ourselves into a situation where the program is in effect but the guidelines have not been drawn rigidly enough to hold the thing in into the proper context that was first explained on the floor. And this makes me very suspicious of this bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Haberman, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Yes, Mr. President, a question of Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Where the state that you....you made the remark that another state the cost came down, were you