

dollars. Now we are going, as Senator Fowler very correctly indicated, we are anticipating revenues of about 737 million and when you take into account the...which I think we are going to have to pass, that health insurance situation, I think you are going to have to take into account those miscellaneous claims against the state. I don't think in good conscience we can trade this bill off for those. Then we are going to break the tax rate level that is going to trigger a tax increase. So, you know, make no mistake about it, when the Governor's vetoes came back, Senator Kahle and Senator Warner, that took into account the interest money and everything else. That is all in there. There is not extra money other than what the Governor vetoed back to. So the point of the matter should be very clear that if we pass this we, in fact, are very seriously jeopardizing the possibility of a tax increase. Now that is our prerogative. If this body desires to do that, well so be it but I just do not think anybody ought to be unclear, anybody ought to make a mistake that that is what a vote not to bracket. If we pass this bill that is what is going to happen. So, I think that the fact that there has been a task force created with committee chairmen to study the whole Medicaid problem this summer, the fact that this task force is going to specifically study and coordinate the federal cutbacks in different grants, this bill does not need to go across that fast. This bill, I would like to keep it viable, keep it alive pending results of that study this summer. The study has been approved by the exec board. The committee has been formed, that special committee of committee chairmen and Senator Warner and I just think we ought to have the answers to some of these questions before we make a decision and then we are going to have the vehicle in place next session on Final Reading and pending the outcome and results of that study we can make a prudent decision. I think we are just going to be jumping too fast here and I think the consequences of that fast jump, which is a tax increase, are too serious to make at this time but there is no magic money that somebody found. We have already spent that and the Governor vetoed back 24 million dollars which puts us right at precariously a level of being able to continue the business of this state under the existing tax rates. So I would urge that you support the bracket motion this morning. You know we are already sending about 52% of our general fund money back to local subdivisions of government. It is not like we are not helping those local subdivisions out and it just appears to me that I know we are all very sensitive of property taxes but I have never heard people say I want to pay more sales and income tax either. So I would urge that we bracket this and have a good, thorough, careful look at it this summer and make our decision next session.