

two bills and person after person came up and clearly there was support for the idea of providing these services. I really didn't find from the hearing any place that I could say looks like it was obviously an unneeded service that we were providing. So by cutting out these services to people that need these sort of assistance proposals we are not really cutting down health care costs in the way we ought to be. There are other approaches that should be taken. All we are doing here is denying very poor people necessary services and that is really not the approach we should take. I think there are other approaches and we can talk about them at another time. I would ask you very much to oppose this amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I intend to vote for the retention of this amendment, having voted now to add practitioners to the language simply because at this point in time the committee makes an invalid complaint of not having enough time to come to decisions. Everyone apparently agrees that the Medicaid program offers the possibility of really getting out of hand. We have had the admission at least from some committee members here on the floor that attempts to cut the list of optional services have been ineffectual to this point, although they are willing to do that. I am hoping that by adopting this amendment at the general file stage will put the burden on the health committee to come in on Select File and name those services that they are willing to see cut. That way we can retain control in the legislative body, an argument that I am sensitive to and appreciate on behalf of the Health Committee but that authority can only stay here so long as it is exercised and exercised on behalf of the fiscal restraint. If that authority is not going to be exercised, then I guess I am going to have to go along with the Appropriations Committee and this amendment. I simply indicate that I am one of those who is willing to look at the list of services the Health Committee thinks is reasonable to place limitations on but absent any direction from them, I'm going to have to by default go with the language in 942. Perhaps between now and Select File the Health Committee will meet in executive sessions and provide us with an alternative that cuts some services in the optional area of Medicaid which we can plug into 942 on Select File. If not, by default, I'm going to have to go with the Appropriations Committee and that is why I'll be voting to support this committee amendment.