

concerned about the duplication of services. Senator Lynch and Senator Wesely have said it won't be a duplication of services and I hope that it will not be, because it costs enough to do it the first time. But as I analyze the fiscal note, I notice that this is for the staff and for administration only. My concern is what is the rest of the program going to cost? I think we could look down the road and see probably another million or two in the next couple of years. And so the program is going to be very expensive. The fiscal note says a little over 600,000 now, about 700,000 next year, and maybe...maybe a million or two in the following years. Senator Wesely says he wants to help the rural areas and we do need a little more help out there. But the local hospitals, the regional hospitals, the local doctors are...I think they're doing a good job. We have some local hospitals that are providing home health care nurses. They're supervising them and putting them on a schedule. We also have the area on aging. We have the nurses in our schools and so we're taking care of quite a few of these things right now. And so I believe what I would like to see is that we just hold this bill and discuss it a little more and maybe we can work out some of the compromises to it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Lynch, followed by Senators Pirsch, Lamb and Dierks.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Chairman and members, I'm concerned that we're talking about things being good ideas, we probably shouldn't consider them because we're not sure what they cost and that's not true in this case. We're getting right now what the total budget is for the State Department of Health, how much of that is General Fund revenues. You know, they contract for an awful lot of services and there is quite a bit, just like with highways, federal and other county monies in some cases involved. And this is, in fact, as was raised by Senator Scofield, you know, what else is happening out there and this is, in fact, part of the whole. This kind of...this kind of a legislation is vital and important to the development of a rural health concern which we'll be discussing next. One without the other probably won't work so I guess if we're shooting down concepts, that's the next one to go. This should be given a chance to work. This is...there is an obvious unmet need if you would just simply turn to this page again. For example, they have on that five areas of interest for public health; community nursing, home health services, disease prevention and control, health education, environmental health. If you look under