

funds and so we have much more of an oversight than we do over the ESUs and the budget and what have you. And, in addition, the other option to not having the local advisory councils in this region will be just to give the money directly to the Health Department and tell them to hire people and go do this. Well, our sense is that it's better for the rest of the state to not do that, to have the local advice and the local input and so that's why we set up those advisory councils. If you don't want them, we would just take the money and give it to the Health Department, but I don't think that's what people should do.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Thank you, Don.

SENATOR HARTNETT: And, Senator Lynch, I think you had...I don't know if you wanted to respond to that too, but...

PRESIDENT: Senator Lynch, please, then Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yeah, just to react. A long time ago when we set up our local programs for retardation in Douglas County we were the first ones that did it and we were going to do it in Douglas County. Well, we recognized that in Cass County and Sarpy and Dodge and in Washington they had folks who were also retarded and couldn't afford nothing. They couldn't afford it. So we created a five-county effort voluntarily. Douglas County paid 88 percent of the cost. We did that voluntarily. And why? Because we simply wanted to share our resources with those people that had less than we had. The result of that was it worked out so well and we did that. We didn't have...we had one person from each county on the advisory committee, just one. I was the only one for 15 years. But we still paid 88 percent of the cost because we thought that was fair, because we had the resources. Cass County paid one percent. I'm not sure what the others paid right now. We didn't have any problem with that. It was sort of trying to help our neighbor share, in fact, in a needed service that they couldn't afford to provide themselves. When you boil it all down that's all this is. There are counties out there that don't have nothing, that need something. We're not creating new agencies at all, we're just adding to their responsibilities so they can take care of those folks...

PRESIDENT: Half a minute.

SENATOR LYNCH: ...and it seems to me that that's all this does. So if you don't understand that, I don't know what we can say.