

appreciate that and I wholeheartedly agree with him on that because we sit next to each other and we talk about that all the time in our committee. I also am very concerned about growth of General Funds, especially when it is not stated up front, especially when it appears there will be none and all of a sudden we get requests saying, well, yes, we forgot, we have to have more General Funds. It is upsetting to us in the committee. I would echo my concerns with Senator Moore. However, it has been pointed out to me and I wasn't around, I think maybe Senator Schmit might have been, I know Senator Warner was, but I wasn't around in the Legislature, but as of about 25 years ago the Medical Center was...the hospital was 95 percent funded, approximately, with General Funds, 95 percent funded with General Funds. Today they are down to around 2, 2.5 percent funding...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: ...of General Funds. So to suggest that the activities of the Medical Center or the hospital has been going towards an increase in draining of state tax dollars is not accurate. As a matter of fact, all the evidence says, we're going the other way. I am convinced that the Med Center, the hospital part of this, will not mean an increase in General Funds. I don't believe it's an accurate...I think it's a sincere question, but it is not one that should be considered in this proposal. I'm going to run out of time, so I will try to address some other things later.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, before you speak, may I introduce a guest of yours, no, it is a guest of Senator Smith, close, but not yours. We have Phyllis Lainson, Mayor of Hastings, and Dianna Ridge, Councilwoman, under the north balcony. Would you folks please stand? Loran, I believe you have a guest, Mr. Snake (phonetic), under the north balcony. Would you rise, Mr. Snake, and be recognized. Thank you. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, since Senator Hannibal is point man on this, and I tried to contact, make eye contact with him several times and I wasn't able to do so. I don't think that is significant, Senator Hannibal, but nonetheless, if you don't take too much of my time I'm going to ask you a few questions. Did Clarkson Hospital approve this resolution this year?