

SENATOR WESELY: Right, so...

SENATOR SMITH: In addition to their home, and in addition to their income that they are also going to have. And I think everyone needs to be aware of that, they do have an income and it's a pretty good income for one person, if they have their home and if they have those other assets. For an elderly person, who has usually everything...

SENATOR LABEDZ: One minute, Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: ...pretty well paid for, they have their Medicaid, they have their Medicare, so in many ways their health needs are being covered also, and I want to make it very clear because I'm always supportive of elderly concerns. But I don't support helping someone on welfare, if that's what you want to call it, because it is for the spouse, and we all know who pays for those costs, it's the other taxpayers, to the point where they're better off than the ones that are supporting them. So that is my argument on that issue. I will support this, but I will bring an amendment on Select. And I don't know how much support I'll get, but I do think that that is an issue that we should look at. Thank you.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Warner, on the advancement of 362A.

SENATOR WARNER: I just wanted to make one other comment so that the body does not assume that the only cost of the federal legislation is contained in this bill. This reflects where state law was in conflict, and governed what the state had to do to be in compliance and, as I indicated, it does go beyond somewhat in a couple of areas. But you should also understand that we're not talking about 1.5 million total impact of the federal legislation, it's more in the nature of like 11 or 12 million would be the General Fund impact in total. But most of those other costs do not require statutory change to be in compliance. It simply is a budget matter that you will have to appropriate that amount of funds and some of that is in institutions, some of it is in Health Department, some of it is in Social Services. But, in any event, the...what you need to keep in mind is there is a major impact coming down that we have to comply with but, at some point, because the issues are being treated in several different ways, we will have to put it all together so you understand very clearly where your options are