

responsibilities. It is a reasonable piece of legislation. If we don't provide this kind of help, this cost still continues to exist. As I told you before, these people are being treated. These medical professionals are doing the job but if we don't reimburse them, at least to some degree, to this degree at least, it's going to be even more serious to provide the kind of care for these kind of lost souls in the future. Anybody that can afford to pay for it ought to pay for it. This does not provide that we should do that. Anybody that skips an obligation in a hospital that has the money, that's not an indigent care, that's a bad debt. Hospitals have to be, doctors have to be, health professionals have to be businesswise, astute enough to make sure that doesn't happen to them and we shouldn't have a bill and LB 187 is not that kind of a bill that would provide for that kind of medical incompetence in business. So I understand Senator Moore's concern, but I don't think it's a real concern at this point in time and, hopefully, that helped explain to some degree, my opinion of it.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Moore, please.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, I just want to point out for...and I agree with...the cap is \$12 million. Now it can be argued that with what has been passed out here, I'm saying you're basically talking about, with some minor differences, the same eligibility but the same eligibility would be a little bit less than the 32 to \$40 million, but it far exceeds \$12 million, but fortunately the \$12 million cap is what is going to keep them from going over \$12 million but who is being driven by the actual cost, at least from the research I have done, the cost is more than \$12 million but, as I said, I'm not against caring for indigent people. I just want to make sure the body is totally aware of the proverbial camel with the nose under the tent with this bill and the cost is very likely...the cost is actually probably more than \$12 million. Within a matter of years I'm afraid this Legislature will be picking up a very high cost tab for what came in at a very low cost price tag to begin with.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Lynch, would you like to close on the advancement of the bill? Senator Weihing.

SENATOR WEIHING: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, when this bill was up before I spoke to this one issue. It hasn't been brought up at this time, and there is some disproportionate amount of bearing on certain counties in the