

here, for part of that equipment replacement pool funds. It's like all kind of reserves, you set up a reserve for a purpose and then you start to steal the money for something else and then it doesn't work any longer. It may be...sound attractive, short run, it's the kind that they inevitably pay a price for later. And it's also accurate to state that a portion of this cash reserve...this reserve, equipment replacement reserve, hospital improvement reserve was also slotted to be used for...slated, rather, to be used for the hospital construction, initial part of it, that was still under consideration by the Certificate of Need Board but that is an ongoing project. But I would urge that you do not begin to dip into the funds that were set up a good many years ago to provide equipment and other hospital related improvements using patient revenue as a source rather than General Fund money which up to that point had been the source of money. The university is not going to take the money out of the General Fund for some other place. Says Cash Funds, that doesn't permit the shifting of General Fund money. It's going to be patient revenue and all you're doing at most then if you're going to maintain the up-to-date equipment, we know how expensive that all is. In fact, many of you are supporting abolishing or increasing, rather, the limits on certificate of need here because of the monumental cost. Well, that's true here, too. Cost is the same. I would urge that you reject this amendment and allow the hospital to function as it needs to function. You aren't saving the taxpayers, you're adding a bill to the patients. It's that simple.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Moore, on your amendment.

SENATOR MOORE: For a point of clarification. When I mentioned the figures, I never talked about reserve, I talked about Cash Fund authority. That Cash Fund authority has increased from \$67 million to \$113 million, the bulk of which comes from patient revenues. And I...Senator Hall asked Senator Hannibal a question about reserve, that's not what I was talking about. I was talking about Cash Fund authority and I pointed out that that would come from patient revenue. And I just wanted to make that clear and ask for adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall, then followed by Senator Withem and Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, I rise in support of Senator Moore's amendment and urge the body to adopt