

it. The...Senator Warner points out that the reserve that is there is in the neighborhood of \$25 million and that it is set up for equipment but also construction. And I would argue that there is a fund there that they say is for equipment because of extraordinary costs, monumental costs, and things such as certificate of need legislation that we're passing to raising thresholds because of those costs. Well, construction costs are going up, too. And, ladies and gentlemen, the General Fund paid for the building once, and if the hospital or the Med Center had been functioning as they need to function all along and the administration had been functioning as they need to function all along, we wouldn't be here today. We wouldn't be here arguing whether or not they ought to have to pay for part of the rebuilding of this building. If folks had been doing their job and functioning as they ought to function, we wouldn't have to have this fight. We wouldn't have to expend these dollars, rebuild the damn building over again, \$3.5 million, the cost that it originally cost 13 years ago on a building that hasn't settled one inch, doesn't have a crack in a floor, hasn't had one bit of damage other than outside physical damage to the facade because there's been cracks in the brick. We wouldn't have a signed contract here that says, yeah, we're going to go ahead and pay it even though there hasn't been any bids let, it wasn't a competitive issue. It was just one company who made the determination that it had to be done and then they got the bid. The fact of the matter is if folks had been functioning as they need to function all along, we wouldn't have to pay anything. They would have got the contractor and the engineers and the architects 13 years ago to cover the defects that were their fault, and now Senator Moore says, well, okay, look, we all agree it's got to be done. Let's step back, have cooler heads and say, fine. But that doesn't mean that General Fund ought to bail them out. That doesn't mean that they ought to have to pay the entire cost. And he offers a very good amendment, that does send a message that Senator Withem talked about, that this situation is not going to go away. It's not going to go away. We're dealing with, this afternoon, the capital construction budget and, hopefully, those buildings that are going to be built through LB 814, people will take a look at making sure that commitments are met, that blueprints are looked at, that properties are inspected and that accountability is there once those buildings are in place so that we don't find ourselves back in this situation. And I think that the Med Center and the university, out of the budget, have to pay for a portion of this no matter where it comes from is a good idea