

Pirsch and Senator Warner indicate as far as this is a good buy in terms of making our state dollars go as far as we can with, particularly if you couple that with the kind of money that is built in there for the counties. There is quite a difference from county to county, it's very unpredictable from year to year what your indigent care costs are going to be. One of the frustrating things about indigent costs are you can go for some time and not have any expense, and then suddenly have something happen that causes you a major expense. So, it seems to me that in terms of trying to spread the money out statewide and make the best use of our General Fund money, that increasing the Medicaid rates are clearly justified and has more of a positive impact statewide, particularly if we're able to couple that with some aid to the counties. So I guess I would prefer not to bracket the bill today, although I don't have any particularly strong feelings. I would think it would be perfectly reasonable, if Senator Lynch agrees to work with us and try...I'll certainly try to help you find data, Senator Lynch. But I wouldn't have any problem, I guess, just going ahead and advancing the bill today. It simply lays, as I see it and as I expressed in the committee when I offered this bill as a vehicle, I see this bill in some respects as a fall-back position, in terms of some of the other choices that are yet to be made out there in the body. You have a notice before you that Senator Landis has circulated saying maybe we ought to sit down one more time and kind of think this thing through. So at this point I see 525 as a vehicle. It is some options, clearly some of the things are going to come out, I would think, depending on other actions you might decide to take, or at best be altered. So I think probably just given the number of days we have left this year that it might be wise to go ahead and not bracket the bill, advance the bill, but continue to massage this bill, along with all of those other extremely difficult choices that we have to make right now before we can finally put together a budget that we can live with and send to the Governor without egg on our faces. So I would oppose the bracket motion, commit myself to work with Senator Lynch to get answers to the questions, legitimate questions that he's raising, but ask you to go ahead and move the bill today. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schellpeper, would you care to speak to it? Thank you. Senator Moore, we're back to your light.

SENATOR MOORE: I will speak once again on this logy afternoon,