

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...I think what I said in answer to your question is, you know, theoretically correct. Basically, the counties will continue to provide the substance...they will basically continue to administer the program. The only difference will be that the...there will be a state worker who will...who will sign off on a general assis...or an emergency assistance application as a way of getting around the...this federal requirement or as a way of compliance with this federal requirement as long as there is a state sign-off on the application. The county would actually still continue to do the same...the same work that they are doing now. There would simply be a sign-off on the state level. Now...

PRESIDENT: Time has expired.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...I understand the point. I guess I will have to think about it between...and talk, figure it out between now and...

PRESIDENT: Okay. Senator Wesely, did you wish to speak on it?

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President and members, this...this issue was brought to me and I did not carry the amendment because I thought state money ought to take over this program. I thought we were heading ourselves into trouble by having the state take over the administration of this program without state funding. I think that's simply my view. Perhaps we can get by with the amendment as it is and I'm willing to support it. But I think, ultimately, the state ought to constitutionally have to take over the funding of the program at \$250,000. So I think, Senator Warner, I think you are absolutely right and, Senator Ashford, maybe you have a better idea of where we're at but my interpretation of the situation is that we can go forward with your proposal but I think, ultimately, we'll have to end up paying for it. That's all. I give you my time.

SENATOR ASHFORD: It's not my proposal and you're the expert in Social Services. So if you think there is a problem, then I think there is a problem. I should have brought it to you, you know.

PRESIDENT: Senator Ashford, would you like to close?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Okay, I think that I will...yeah, I will just close and say that at this point I understand Senator Warner's