

May 19, 1989

LB 187A, 187, 525

Warner touched on the fact that \$7.2 million...is that...is the cap...the 7.2...would Senator Lynch yield to a question?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR MOORE: The \$7.2 million is what General Fund appropriated to the...the cap is still \$12 million, correct?

SENATOR LYNCH: Right, the cap is still 12 million.

SENATOR MOORE: Okay, well, that's all, Senator Lynch. I wanted to remind, I think, several months ago when we debated LB 187 I mailed out...sent out to all of you the original premise point of the whole issue of LB 187 was property tax relief. We discovered, of that \$12 million, only 3.7 million was actually expended on property taxes, about 80 percent of which was spent in Douglas County, at least in '87-88. And the other thing is that this is far from a \$12 million problem, according to some experts in the health care field, it's more like a 35 to 40 million dollar problem. And so that \$12 million cap, though I think it's put there in good faith, is going to go nowhere but up. We're buying into a very expensive program in the future. But, really, that's to the bill itself. I'll make those arguments again with you when we debate the bill, before we read it but, for the reason Senator Warner has mentioned, I think you're jeopardizing the whole bill, the whole issue, by the constitutional problems you raise by doing it this method. So I still oppose the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Langford.

SENATOR LANGFORD: Mr. President, I'm going to surprise everybody and talk. Actually, I was a little amused by Senator Lynch talking about Douglas County having all that money that it wasn't going to be that important for them, but some of the rural counties didn't have that much money. It was interesting to me because Buffalo County now budgets \$200,000 a year for indigent care and they never spend that amount. So, actually, I would say that it is not nearly as important for the rural counties as it is for the 80 percent in Douglas County. We use...we used in LB 525 funds that would bring match from the federal government, because this gives us more money to spend on health care. So I would ask you to very carefully think the benefits to your own area when you vote for this bill. Thank you.