

2 percent because that is what the law provides. But then the doctors and the hospitals and everybody else that causes those health rates would also have to live with 2 percent at the same time, and private industry that provides gravel and all of the other things you need, the food to feed the prisoners and the rest, it would be interesting if that applied, wouldn't it? Don't you think it ought to? When we talk about caps later on, keep that in mind. I think we ought to keep in mind it should apply to everybody, too, including state institutions, not just jurisdictions of government like cities, counties, and schools. But in this particular case, I appreciate that the Appropriations Committee, just like Senator Wesely said, did put the bill out and we do get at least an increase from minimum wage to five bucks. For some of you that take care of these people who really need it so badly, it is still a kick in the butt as far as I am concerned, but it is something. And it is scandalous that we can find these millions and millions of dollars to build all these buildings and we can't seem to find the kind of money we need to pay the poorest of the poor to help the sickest, the sickest that can't stay in the hospital any more, are kicked out because they have no more money left...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR LYNCH: ...to stay. So I have to tell you at the same time I am grateful, I am dissatisfied as well because our whole sense of priorities is screwed up, obviously, when something like this can't be funded. So I want to promise those people that served on the committee, that we will be back next year with the remaining parts of this legislation and, hopefully, at that point in time, you folks for the next two years will support the legislation and fund it for these people that mean so much to the people they serve and the money they can save all of us in health care costs.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Any other discussion on the committee amendments? Senator Warner, would you like to close?

SENATOR WARNER: Again, Mr. President, I want to clearly indicate that, as I indicated in the opening, that the committee amendment, yes, it does reduce the cost. This is one of the bills that we are in competition with A bills, that the majority of the body would wish to appropriate the funds for the full request, certainly you could make a case for that. What our committee amendment did, we, recognizing that this was in