

with a program is not found in very many states. I am being told Colorado has something. I don't know if there is very many other states that have done this, but we are going to be one of the first states in the nation to move forward in this way on this issue. As I said, many states have mandated the benefit. We are not doing that. We are suggesting a state program, and there aren't many states that have done that, and I think appropriately that is the way to go. So I hope that the proposal that is embodied here will lead other states to look at this idea and go forward as well. Now the money factor, as was talked about, was a great concern. The bill doesn't go as far as originally envisioned but it is a first step. We will see how it works, how it operates and is implemented, and further funding, further action can be taken in time, but I think as a first step, this is a very important way to go. I don't know if there is much time left, but I give whatever time remains to Senator Schimek to continue her comments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Madam President, members of the body, thank you, Senator Wesely, I just wanted to finish briefly with the bill. The last sections of the bill provide for the Mammography Screening Fund and that will allow us to get both private funds and federal funds into that fund, and I know that the Health Department, right now, has a grant application in progress which could potentially bring in about \$3 million for this activity. There are also a number of entities who came in last year and the year before to the Banking Committee hearings and said we don't think that mammograms should be mandated coverage but we'd sure like to see some kind of public policy here and we'd be willing to help with it. So I am hopeful that some of these entities also might be willing to come forth with some funds. There is also a screening committee established by the bill, which would help the Department of Health set up reimbursement limits, and would encourage the funds, the fund raising. And I would also like to mention that, and reiterate, that this provides for mammograms on a sliding scale fee, so that hopefully...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...we will hit those women who cannot afford to get the mammogram and that aren't covered by Medicare or Medicaid. Also, what we will hope to do is to educate more and