

noncontroversial out of that.

SENATOR HALL: Okay, does this...does this change the makeup of the CHIP board at all?

SENATOR WESELY: No, we didn't do that one.

SENATOR HALL: Okay, so that's no included in this?

SENATOR WESELY: No, huh-uh.

SENATOR HALL: All right, thank you very much. I would rise in support of the Wesely...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Wesely, one additional question, if I may. The CHIP program, I don't think I was around when it was established.

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I was around?

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah.

SENATOR BEUTLER: When we established it, it seemed to me that we were anticipating that the costs to the state would not be significant but I'm trying to remember how it's funded and if you could give me the history of what...what the state has paid the last...since the time it's been funded and what this increase in fees and individual premiums means in terms of whether we're taking care of the costs of this program or whether the costs of the program continue to grow as far as being a drain on state funds.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Senator Beutler, the bill was passed by Senator Chizek and myself in 1985. The program started in 1986. Now it's been in effect almost five years. It's total cost over the total...that period of time is something slightly over \$5 million, so a little over a million a year has on average gone out in terms of premium. How it works is the CHIP pool is set up. These individuals, as indicated in this, pay a higher premium for coverage and we're saying 135 percent, they were at currently about 130 percent. And yet