

February 3, 1992 LB 349

some question on the funding of this. And I guess, Senator Johnson, I guess I could address those to you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rod Johnson, would you yield, please.

SENATOR ROBINSON: I understand that there are 6,000 plus products out there, and we're going to jack up the cost from \$40 to \$55, \$15. The question I have, how much will that...we'll get so much money out of that, but in the ensuing years how much is the cost going to go up?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Well, Senator, that would largely depend on how consistent the federal matching money would be. Obviously, as they withdraw their support for the program, if that would happen, the states responsibility would go up with the program as it's being implemented, Senator.

SENATOR ROBINSON: So there's a good...as we know, dealing with the federal government, that we can...it's about a 100 percent chance that it's going to go up, right? I mean what I've seen of legislation and things, as we deal with the federal government...

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Well, Senator, I would be lying to stand on the floor here today and say that there is not the possibility at some future date that the EPA would possibly reduce or withdraw completely their support for the program, that has not happened in the other states. They have reduced their support, they have not eliminated their complete support for that. That, obviously, is left up to the Congress to decide. But you know a good example is Medicaid, and Medicare, as you in the Appropriations know, mandated program but not the...sometimes not the dollars to support the program. On the other hand, if you look at the other states in Region 7, which we're a participant in, the funding has been pretty stable the last few years.

SENATOR ROBINSON: The...how much does the federal government put into this program now?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Oh, there are two programs, Senator. There's the educational aspect, and then there's the enforcement. And I want to say close to a half a million dollars for both programs. But I'd have to get you the specific figures.