

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...and ignore the other side's problem, we will not have the kind of conditions under which we can get CHIP solved for the future. Both sides are going to have to give. The CHIP holders are going to have to have the program redesigned, the insurance companies are going to have to help in making sure that we have adequate revenue to run the program. If we make a one-sided gain for the insurance companies, we move away from the prospect of some negotiated settlement. There is a time when this might be appropriate. But unlinked to anything to the CHIP holders, unlinked to any other discussions and negotiations, it's a one-sided gain for people who should be yoked together to provide an equilibrium that gets us some kind of settlement over time. I am going to vote red on the amendment. I am going to vote red on the advancement.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, I appreciate that there is, though the hour is late, some attention being paid to the issue. I don't know how long we'll spend on it. I don't know that it will be a lot of time. But I want to rise in support of the amendment at this point and the advancement of the bill. I tend to agree with a lot of what Senator Landis said, to the degree that we have to understand there's a balancing act here. That we've tried, Senator Landis and I have over the last couple of years, to try and bring the two sides together, the policyholders on one and the insurance industry, insurance department on the other, to see how we might move forward to adequately address some of the concerns with the CHIP program. Those are...those attempts at compromise are embodied in LB 835 and then also in LB 1220, which was introduced this year. Now LB 835, the reason that we're not going with some of the other elements of the bill is much of it was amended into LB 419 of last session, and adopted by us. Other elements of LB 835 are quite controversial and are not ready, I think, for action at this point. And it seems to me, though, that we can proceed with the idea of the cap, understanding that I've already talked to the policyholders, and I've talked to Senator Lynch, cosponsor of 835, and other representatives of the insurance industry, that there is a willingness to negotiate and discuss other concerns that the policyholders have, and that we can attempt to address some of those concerns on Select File.