

program really could be. And I think by using federal funds that's the way to really go at the present time. I remember when I was a kid, which was several years ago, we went to the city hall in Stanton and we all were vaccinated. They all run us through a big line. Every school came in and they just vaccinated us all. And it's much cheaper to do that than it is to have everybody go in to see this doctor or clinic. So I think a program like this is really needed in this state. It will help get our health care costs under control, and it's something that we probably think, oh, gosh, here's another federal program they're going to fund for one year and then stop. But it's worth that one year's to just try it and see because it is something that has to happen. And if there are some federal funds there, we need to use those federal funds. So I think I really support the amendment because it is something that's very important to our youngsters in this state. A lot of people cannot afford to have their children vaccinated and this would really help in our rural areas so I really support the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Senator Rasmussen, you're next, please.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I wanted to respond to a couple of things that have been asked about. Senator Pirsch, you were talking about I think about how we get this information to parents in a timely way and get them there. I don't know the answer to the second part of that question. But one of the things we have not done is we have not made this a requirement at the preschool level. We have said children all have to be vaccinated in order to get into kindergarten. And so what's happening is families are waiting until they absolutely have to do this by age five in order to get their children into school and that's too late. We're having children getting measles between three and five. Timely vaccinations for the most part should be done by about 24 months of age. So what we're trying to get at here is the issue of timely vaccination. Over 40 percent of the children are not getting those by the time they are age 5. One of the things that this amendment would allow for us and the federal grant would allow us to do is to begin to say in order to get into preschool and child care you need to be vaccinated. And so now we will have preschool and childcare people who are caring for children at a much earlier age saying in order to attend the center you have to have your child vaccinated. And so they will be making that request as