

least for the next year and a half, and perhaps for the next two years. So I want to tell you that I'm as angry as I can be, not knowing the full facts of the situation about this, and I'll express that anger a little more strongly when I know the full details of what happened. But if, in fact, the administration is tying the hands of this Legislature, to be able to deal with the problem of Medicaid by saying we will not be able to enter into a managed care program essentially for the next two or three years, they will have done a great disservice to the citizens of this state, to the taxpayers of this state and it's one of the worst mistakes I've seen in any negotiation in state government over the years I've been in the Legislature. Now, it may in fact not be the case. And I'm optimistic that what I received back in reports is not true. And that's why I can't be absolutely certain. But, absolutely, I'm convinced that the resolution before us is the right thing to do. I'm glad the unanimous support of the task force is there. And whether or not the administration believes there are ways to save money by changing this system, I know that it can be done, and has to be done, and will be done if we ultimately want to solve this Medicaid problem. There are, in fact, a number of managed care plans being developed right now. They have been submitted in various forms to the administration and will be submitted to the task force in the next couple of weeks. There are already a great deal of projects going on with different committees looking at how managed care can save money for Medicaid. All of this is in progress. So it seems incredible to me that the potential is there, that an agreement has been signed that would thwart all of those efforts and not allow them to bear fruit. But let us hope that that is not the case. You'll find some of the more key elements of the recommendations found on page 5, where we talk about the fact that we have the potential of raising a provider tax of up to \$45 million. Our preference would be to work with the providers of this state to find savings in the Medicaid program rather than doing a provider tax is essentially what we're saying. But we're giving notice that that is one of the options and one of the things and target goals that we would potentially have. In addition, on page 5 we have the essence of this resolution found, calling for a managed care plan to be developed. There are additional items through here. You'll find a summary of Medicaid. You'll find the mandatory versus optional services and questions involved with that. You'll get an idea of the different alternatives that we have to deal with the problem listed on...later on in the report, which is essentially looking at optional services, and