

followed by Senator Schmit.

SENATOR MOORE: Thank you very much, Madam President. You know Senator Wesely mentioned, and I want to reiterate something, because if you look at the financial status you will see that we actually, for this fiscal year we cut, we made adjustments totalling about \$29.2 million. Then you...so you came in and you reduced the budget, through a variety of mechanisms, by \$29.2 million, then you turn around, the Medicaid deficit is worth \$29.1. The (inaudible) claim, you know, even before this morning you've already added more back into the budget than you reduced it with all the pain we went through this session, by about \$300,000. Top that off with the settlement this morning, \$5.8 million, you can see that, I mean, like I said earlier, you talk about one step forward and two steps back. That's...the song is very apropos, because you came in here, we've done a lot of things, some painful, some not as painful as they could have been. And you actually, I think we've almost lost ground, which is very frustrating. One of the items that the Governor had recommended, that this Legislature chose not to do, was in LB 5, which basically was the concept of managed care. And one of the concerns that I know at least I had and I know several others was that should you really be saying...giving the Department of Social Services carte blanche to do this. And my concern was no. But on the other hand, I think, as Senator Wesely stated and the Medicaid committee, that concept, if you look at I forget what page it was in the task force report. If you look at other states, what is going on, the most prevalent activity, and even more prevalent than provider tax is the concept of managed care and what it can do. And given that fact, I think I know I, myself, wasn't necessarily totally opposed to LB 5. But I was opposed to saying you go do it, we'll give you authority, we're going to cut your budget, you do whatever you want to do. I was concerned about that. This resolution, asked the assessed, okay, if you were going to do that, develop the plan that you would have used to implement...develop that plan, bring it to the Legislature within 30 days, before the first of the year I believe the language is, and next session we're going to take a good look at that. I think it's things like that that we do need to take a good, hard look at. Obviously, I mean, will we do that, that's a decision that we're going to make. You know, is managed care...is a vote for LR 6 a commitment saying we are going to do managed care? No, all it's saying is that, yes, we want you to develop a plan so we can make an educated decision on how we want to move forward. And if it's not