

is somebody's got to say no, in some process, some procedure. So it's my feeling and the committee's feeling, and I think most generally from those we've been working with, that we need to change the system, so we identify a way to save money by managing the system and managing the care involved. And that in doing so we can provide adequate services, but not an exorbitant cost. Now if we do not take this step, if the contract that's been signed does not allow us to do managed care, then I don't know how we're going to save money in this system. I don't know how we're going to reduce our costs. So the alternative that I see is nothing other than a provider tax or some revenue raising mechanism, because we have looked at the idea of limiting optional services. I can tell you now that doesn't look like it's going to go anywhere. We've looked at even the step of reducing optional services costs and trying to find a way to do that, and even that was not able to be done this session. And so one of the few areas we always talked about is how you can cut back on optional services. And even if you got rid of all of them, you're talking about \$14 million out of a \$232 million budget. And outside of that, we're stuck in the mandatory services that we have to provide. And so the question is, if we have to provide those, and we should, let's do it in the most cost-effective way, in the most effective manner we can and providing the level of health care that these people need. And that's the concept that we're trying to embody in this resolution. I can see a great deal of difficulty in where this is going. If the administration has a different view, if they want to block and intercede and head us off at the pass on this,...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...if, in fact, the...if the contract that's been signed does what I think it does, I think the people that feel that they've won may have actually lost. Those people who think that they can...will come out ahead will, I think, not come out ahead, because as I said, I'm not sure what the alternative is, if we can't do managed care, to how we save costs. If we can't save costs, we've got to come up with the money, and what are our choices on that? So I'm very concerned about some of the decisions that have been made perhaps today. But at the same time this is the right course of action, and I appreciate very much the support that we've been receiving on this resolution. And the committee will continue, I think, to work very hard to finding a resolution to the Medicaid issue.