

services to a group for no extra state money, and all of a sudden this year we're discovering that?

SENATOR WESELY: Some are discovering it.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Are we just doing it? I mean this is really kind of astounding in a way.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, it is. I'm astounded, I mean that's why I think you heard my comments related to Maximus. We think this should have been done some time ago. But there was some concern about whether it did obligate us, but I think my sense all along was that that could be handled. And that's clearly what we've got with the bill that's before us

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. So the situation is that if we pick up this option those...whatever our obligation is under the option, those do become entitlements. People do have a right to those, depending on how it's defined, correct?

SENATOR WESELY: Right. Medicaid is an entitlement depending, of course, on your income.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Right.

SENATOR WESELY: So,...

SENATOR BEUTLER: So we are relying heavily upon...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...the representation, at least with respect to keeping this fiscally neutral, we're relying heavily upon the representation that the option can be drawn in such a way as to preclude the need for additional state expenditures.

SENATOR WESELY: Right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Is that correct?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, um-huh.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, and if there were a further amendment seeking to ensure that that was the case, I assume there would be no objection to that.