

There has been a loss of control that the states have enjoyed over the years, and the natural reaction is to say, hey, stop, we want to talk about it and discuss whether or not this is a good idea. But I also want to note for you, again, a word of caution as we move forward on this issue, that there is some perhaps good reasons why some of these proposals have been put into place. And one of them is, in my view, that there may be something to uniformity and unity in terms of providing some strength for our country, that we must understand that in the world market that we have today, and in the world environment that we have today, that some of these evolution of roles is bound to happen and we must understand the context of these changes and consider very carefully consequences. And I know Senator Beutler and I and others have talked about should we go forward with some of these changes, and should we have the devolution of federal role and the evolution, I guess, of the state role, what kind of impact would it have as we address issues such as poverty, health care, environment, taxation, and gambling. And some of the things that it seems to me the consequences of which we would only feel perhaps far into the future, others may be more quickly, seem to me to be important questions that we all need to look at, and we haven't spent a whole lot of time about that here on this discussion of this resolution. But I just want to indicate, for the record, that I feel that a discussion moving forward on this issue is worthwhile, but I also do so with caution and concern. And a couple of examples I'd just like to cite, in the poverty issue, which is being looked at is being moved from a federal role to a state role, the question comes up of would we have, in fact, a vulcanization of the states in an attempt to do less for the poor and have incentives to do less, not to do more, and find that the changes that are being proposed head us in a different, very much different direction than we have now, and one in which poverty no longer is a national concern. And health care, I know the fact that the federal government has not taken action has made it virtually impossible to achieve universal access to health care for all Americans.

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: Other countries that have achieved that have always done so as a national plan. Environment are areas that Senator Beutler has worked on and has expressed concerns about; tax policy, and the tax wars between the states in economic development is another example of where the freedom of the