

condition of the bill, it, of course, would lose its right to a share of the state appropriated funds. So that, to me, doesn't make the option of opting out very realistic at all and so what this amendment says is that they can opt out, and also if they do opt out, then with respect to any money, state money that's appropriated for this program, that county that opts out has the right to take off the top of that fund its pro-rata share of that fund, based upon the population of the county compared to the statewide population. So if you have a county that opts out and that county has 3 percent of the population of the state, then with respect to the state-appropriated funds, that county can take that 3 percent and do its own thing and the remaining counties that are a part of the program then would share in the state appropriated funds that are a pool for all those who remain in the system. That, essentially, is what the amendment does. And I believe that that amendment, technically, Senator Kristensen, and I know you may have differences philosophically which you will address, but, technically, I think that amendment fits with the option provision that currently is in the bill. Does it not?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: I don't think it does, Senator Beutler. But,...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...let me continue to look at it. But, if we may, I know there's a number of people that still want to speak on the bill, could we use your amendment as a vehicle for some people to discuss the bill as well?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Oh, absolutely.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Okay, and let me look at it. But I...because we're now going to state funds, the opting in and opting out is a matter of do you share in getting any state staffing or do you not share in getting state staffing because we're not giving out dollars here.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I see.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: And so I think that's where it probably doesn't fit in, because we...