

SENATOR HALL: Participation is my understanding. Is that...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: No, I think that the participation would have been mandatory if you were extracting some fee or assessment from the counties, that's where the mandatory provisions would have been. What the bill is now is a state created assistance...

SENATOR HALL: State finance.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...that, yes, that people can come and access. Where the mandatory part was where we said county X, Y and Z, you contribute, you have no choice.

SENATOR HALL: Exactly.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: And that's gone, well, will be gone with this clean-up amendment. But that's what we've been talking about and certainly my intent was not to make that mandatory to extract a fee from them, and thus the opt-outs we did. If somebody doesn't want state money, I would probably support that. That just...that just saves me money at the state level and I would probably like that.

SENATOR HALL: So are you supportive of this amendment?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes, the Beutler amendment, yes, I am.

SENATOR HALL: So the amendment that allows for the provision that...and I apologize if I missed your comments on the Beutler amendment, but I know you yielded your time to him and I didn't...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: I did.

SENATOR HALL: ...and I wasn't sure where your position was on this amendment because, as I understand the amendment, it forecloses the ability to opt out and it says that any...before the fund is distributed...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...the monies that would be used for a county such as Lancaster or Douglas would be...no, that's not correct,