

living under those restrictions. If not, then let's go ahead and strike the language. Calm down there, Jim, quit throwing books. (Laughter.) Those guidelines are already going to be in effect because the power is granted to them. If that's not what we want to do, well, then let's strike the language. It wasn't stricken in the Kristensen amendment. The Kristensen amendment simply said state funding. It didn't take away the powers that we're creating and it is a very powerful commission. If you haven't read those powers, which I specifically point out to you on pages 8, 9, 10, and 11, I believe, excuse me, 6, 7, 8, 9, I would suggest you do that because unless I'm reading something wrong, I think that on page 6, lines 21 through 24, and on page 8, lines 18 through 20, do what I say they did. If they don't do that, correct me, but I think they do, and if...if that's not what they do, let me know what they do do, and if not, let's get rid of them. We don't need to leave that power hanging out there if we're not going to fund it.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, I would like to try to explain again what this amendment does because there seems to be some confusion. I guess the first question I would ask, this bill is presented to us as something that's wanted by the various counties to try to take care of these excess...excessive costs that come up from time to time, and so it's a kind of insurance policy, as described by Senator Kristensen, for the counties. But in this Legislature, time and again, we have opted for local option when that's made sense and I say it makes sense in this particular instance. If you want to be a part of this system, fine; if you want to announce that you don't want any of these services, you don't want this insurance policy, then this amendment would allow you to do that. Now, it's true, there's no assessment on the counties now. The only funds that go into this are whatever state funds we appropriate. But do I really have an option to get out if getting out means I give up the state sales and income taxes that the people of my county paid in, which is essentially what you do if you opt out and don't get any of the services that are being funded by this \$500,000, or however much is put in. And so what the amendment further says is if you opt out and there's nothing wrong with the concept, there's nothing technically wrong with it, you may have to go into another portion of a bill and deal with the Cash Fund but there's no reason that this can't be done, what it says is you take the number of people in