

system is the problem of financing medical care. How do you do that? And I think that clearly what we need to do, and especially with respect to children, is to develop a system, a transitional system whereby people can get off welfare, but still get some medical care but, as they progress up the financial scale, call upon them to exercise their parenthood with more and more of their own payments, paying their own premiums and becoming responsible for their own payments. We can do this one small piece at a time starting with children at certain ages and progressing until we include all children. We can do it in a responsible way over 10 to 15 years with payments, assistance payments out of state funds which are reasonable in amounts and it is, I believe, a state responsibility. It's also interesting in this time when we're discussing the relationship between the federal government and the state government and we all feel that the state government should have more responsibility and the federal government should not be so dominating that we should be able to formulate our own solutions to our own problems. Well, we do have a problem here. We do need to formulate our own solution and to do what Senator Witek suggests, that is ignore the entire problem, is the very reason that a lot of people don't want to return power to the states because the states deny the problem. The states won't adjust and find their own solutions and I think we need to show that we will exercise our responsibility and we will find our own solution to this problem and there are solutions out there but I don't think that it makes any sense to ignore the problem which is essentially what the Witek amendment is. Thank you.

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

SENATOR DAY: Thank you, Madam President and colleagues. I rise in opposition to the Witek amendment but I do want to thank Senator Witek for bringing this forward on the floor. I think this is a debate and a discussion that is very, very necessary for us to have. We have a major problem in this area and we have to get started in some direction as to how to take care of it and I think the wording we have in this legislation is a start. I tend to agree with Senator Beutler and Senator Chambers. I would like it to be a little stronger and a little more forceful to make sure we were going to be where we need to be. I think it's important that we look at the difference that we have put in the legislation between health care and health insurance. We are talking about health insurance. People say