

SENATOR BOHLKE: Madam President, members, Senator Witek, exaggeration, exaggeration, exaggeration. You put me on the edge. I want to tell you no one is talking about spending any money. I consider myself a fiscal conservative. As I pointed out earlier when I spoke, this is nothing but saying sometime it's the ultimate goal or the intention that it's available to children and families. I can't understand what is wrong with stating that. Surely there would be numbers of us who would get up and oppose if it required funding it. It does not. It does not hit people who are in a crisis situation with those who are on the edge. It just doesn't cost any money. There is no A bill for this amendment and it's wrong to go on and on about what the cost is going to be. It is only intent, it is a goal, and it is not an A bill. I oppose the Witek amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Jensen, on the Witek amendment.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. Senator Chambers has tried to educate me and some of that I have picked up on in that he has told me that don't put things in a bill that don't have meaning, that doesn't actually belong there and I believe this is just one of those items. I would agree with Senator Maurstad on that point. Also, we need to think about where this fits in. Now we're talking about welfare reform here. We're talking about a two-year cap and then beyond that two-year cap there is a two-year Medicaid extension beyond that. So we're four years out. Now we're talking about health insurance beyond that and we must remember that the nation turned down universal health care. They turned down mandated health care. The last two days I've heard from many of my constituents about their taxes and they're upset about their taxes. In Douglas County, it's not unusual at all to hear somebody who has had a tax increase of 30 percent, 40 percent, 50 percent on their homeowners, or on their homes. Where is this money going to come from? It's going to come from the taxes and if we want to raise our citizens even more and if we want to see people exit the state, all we need to do is come up with more mandated benefits, more mandated cost to our citizens and we're going to have a mandated exodus out of this state. We must not do that. And you know, health insurance, there's all kinds of health insurances out there. I have no problem if we want to do an interim study on this, but to include this as part of this Medicaid bill, I did vote against this particular