

into a cash-funded health policy study which needs to be done. So here what we're talking about is a needed action that needs to occur that is cash funded, we've got a grant to pay for this, can't be done because we have the stupid hiring freeze that won't allow things that need to be done to get done, even when they're cash funded? Does that make any sense at all? And instead to get around this freeze, we're now going to...there was a proposal, the committee killed it, thank goodness, to do away with a long-time program that's liked by consumer and manufactured homes as well and this is the sort of thing that happens. You end up with a situation that makes no sense and it seems to me that some of this hiring of temporary works is exactly that. Now part of it is, well, we save money. Well, we're only paying eight bucks on average and there's no benefits. Well, in the end, as we know in the private sector when we do something like that, these people get sick and if they don't have health insurance, doesn't somebody end up paying for it? Well, yeah, of course we do. And we've always talked about the welfare and what we need to get the people off of welfare, we need health care and child care and here's the State of Nebraska now promoting low-paid individuals on a temporary basis getting no health care and child care. I'm not sure this is really promoting the best interest of the state overall. The other consequence besides the use of these SOS temporary workers, which I think has been a negative, is the consultant situation. We'll be talking about that some more with Maximus. Now there is...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...a right and a wrong time to do consultants having an expertise come in on a short-term basis and train our workers so that they can do the job later on, now that makes sense to me. But having individuals come in, spend a great deal of money on an hourly basis and have their expertise leave with them and put us in a vulnerable situation makes no sense to me. And I'm not sure we're approaching this in the sensible fashion. I think we're tending to make decisions again because this hiring freeze forces these agencies into making irrational choices into doing things in a way that they would not otherwise do. So my hope is, my hope is that Senator Wehrbein and the Appropriations Committee and I've talked to fiscal analyst's office, that you will, in fact, carry through with the idea of studying this, looking into this and finding a solution to it because this is no small issue. This is a big issue that