

and, essentially, retain some of the provisions of LB 718, would provide some economic relief to these people who found their drug costs significantly increased as a result of the implementation, and as was indicated by Senator Fisher, some of these can be quite expensive, and the savings could be significant to people who are generally...would be older and would be perhaps on a somewhat limited income. So I'd hope you'd favor adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Warner, one quick question, if I may. I don't understand how drug prescriptions work. When a doctor is deciding upon the appropriate prescription for a person and how long that prescription should continue, is that a matter of just an individual doctor's judgment? I mean, I assume a person could have a certain type of disease, and it would be logically or historically or we know that disease is going to continue on indefinitely, so I suppose one could give a prescription for whatever period of time one wanted to. And I guess I would ask, is there a medical standard or a rule that would tell us anything about how often this...a prescription would be given for 180 days or more?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: As I understand it, Senator Beutler, that normally one would look at probably any prescription in excess of 90 days of a doctor's order, or perhaps in less being their hesitance to do, because they want to monitor whether or not the patient is adequately progressing or, at least, if that prescription is correct. And as a result, I don't think anybody would officially say that they would make a 180-day prescription in every instance, but on occasions where the condition of the patient justifies a longer nature of a...longer prescription, why then they would be, perhaps, willing to do it. It would be up to the individual doctor whether or not they would make that long a prescription. But if they would, why then people could have significant savings on some of these long-term maintenance drugs.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And the period of 180 days, is that a politically dictated amount?

SENATOR WARNER: Probably.