

Roger, I'm to the Department of Health.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Why was the funding eliminated for the monitoring of radiation levels in the areas around the two active nuclear power plants? I mean, I thought that would be kind of an ongoing thing because one never knows what may happen and I was curious. It's a 31,000 dollar savings so it's not a lot of dollars, but what was the rationale for the removal of the funding?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: It's our understanding that that's a re...duplication of effort, that there is federal monitoring. It was unnecessary for the state to continue to stay in this if the feds were doing an adequate job.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay, and are the feds doing it?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: That's what we understand, yes.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay, if that's the case then that's...that's a legitimate proposal. On the same page, on the Department of Health, increasing the immunization funding to 100,000 for the vaccines for children not covered by insurance, the question I had was, and I'm totally in support of this, the \$100,000, will that meet the potential need for the vaccines? Because at one point there simply wasn't the supply of vaccines for children if they all received their vaccinations. Was there any input to the committee saying that 100,000 would provide the adequate amount of vaccines that the children would need?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: We think it will. State law requires health insurance policies to cover immunizations and with federal funds that also cover this we feel with the federal funding and combined with the increased insurance coverage available across the state that this should be adequate.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay. And right above that...and I was hoping that was the answer but, if not, I was going to add more monies in for that so it would be adequate. Above that in the first part under state aid in the Department of Health we have increased funding for the Medical Student Assistant Program. I'm not that familiar with the Medical Student Assistant Program. How does that fit in with the rural