

once again. We changed well over a hundred years of history when we adopted the Hall amendment and it concerned me greatly that we did that. I...I understand why we did it. The counties are, I assume, anticipating that we will cut people off after two years, that we will sanction people and they'll lose their benefits and that they don't want to be the ones to catch them when they fall, and if the state is taking that step, I'm sure they're thinking why should we be the ones to then make up the difference. I understand that, but, at the same time, it seems like a policy issue worth thinking about further and in more of a discussion and dialogue between the counties and the state nothing is going to happen in this regard for two years in terms of the two-year benefit cutoff. Obviously, with some of the sanctions which we talked about earlier, that could happen sooner but that even wouldn't be for some period of time. So there is a period of time before we would actually see an impact on the counties and that's one reason why, you know, in terms of the Hall amendment its immediate impact isn't going to be felt. But down the road you change the dynamic a great deal when we take away the role of the counties as the...as the option of last resort to help those that have nowhere else to turn to. The language of the Hall amendment was essentially "shall not", it's not exactly right, but shall not provide assistance to these people. So if a county, if Lancaster, Douglas, anybody out there had somebody come to them, had been cut off from help, was desperate, in need of assistance, seemed worth of assistance and the county wanted to help, wanted to have the option to help, they would not be able to, under the Hall amendment. It seems too...too restrictive, too absolute when there are circumstances where common sense would probably tell us we should provide assistance. The other thing is when we adopted this, everybody kept talking about people are being cut off because of their mistake. They have been sanctioned. They're the ones that caused the problem, they should pay the price. But the Hall amendment also had the termination of benefits, so individuals out there that have done everything right and gone off into the work force and gotten their benefits cut off after two years or whenever it was and then the job goes away or something happens and they need help, they're...they're cut off too. That's a very critical point. It's something that...that where this family, these individuals did everything right, they played by the rules but their benefits were terminated and something happens to them, now they have...they haven't any place to turn to. It seems like, to me, that...that the counties, that's what their role has always been in the past,