

Legislature that all of us would be able to look at. And Senator Lindsay is right on target, as was Senator Witek with her amendment, that sometimes we need to take time and ask the question, how much are we spending, how many people are spending time that we're paying to spend time in the agencies in order to get federal dollars that we all know are going to be decreasing over the next seven years. And we've got to take some time and not do business as usual anymore because the federal funds are not going to be there as usual anymore. And so we need to really sit back and analyze these things even closer. The Witek amendment does not harm the bill, it doesn't do anything to the bill. It's not that big a deal, I would think, and Senator Beutler might passively make an argument why we may not need it, but would at least admit that it is not harmful to the bill if adopted. I certainly hope the Witek amendment is adopted.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that I can respond totally to everything, Senator Warner had mentioned something about someone else from the Appropriations Committee perhaps addressing this. I guess one of the keys for me is to look at the word "administer", and some of the data that you're talking about gathering here with how many and all those sorts of things, I don't know that that's necessarily required with this amendment. What you're asking is for the administrative fees. There is a fiscal note that goes with each bill that comes out that tells you what that cost is estimated to be and from where. I think the other thing you need to look at is on Appropriations Committee, yes, we can ask those questions at any one, particular time. The thing in looking at a cost analysis for this program, how involved do you want it to be. If you're going to look at all the agencies that it touches, and it's not just a question of just administering under one person or even one agency, there are cross agencies here. And as it goes along, as I understand it, there would be more and more blending through all those agencies. So you could get from the administrator a, probably, short, what they see as direct costs. You get into, you know, what the cost analysis that Senator Lindsay talked about, I don't think you'll get that with this amendment because when you're doing a cost analysis you've got a lot of indirect costs, and it filters down through a lot of agencies. So I think one of the things, I guess, that I would like to see done, if we're really, seriously looking at this