

particular their investigation as to the financial responsibility of the family and person that is being incarcerated, it will cause them to do a more thoughtful job altogether I think. And that's the basic thrust. I would invite your questions.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Wehrbein, did you wish to speak about the Beutler amendment?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam President, I will like to question Senator Beutler in a minute, but I wanted to make some general comments. Senator Hudkins, I would like...I think she is telling you what I wanted to get on the record, I guess. As I understand it, Douglas County sends many of their patients, if not all, to private and are paying for it now. My concern is that if the state were to pick this up, I am trying to interpret the A bill, the cost of this; if they were to pick this up, there could be a tendency for them to send more to DPI because the state would be picking it up. DPI's cost would rise. Their admissions would rise, cost would go up, and even though I understand DPI probably would be handling this more economically right because of in-house efficiency, that there may...they can do it better or cheaper than when they were charging it out for cash, the dilemma would be that we may overload our facilities and drive our costs up, and within a year we may be at twice this amount of money in this program, unknowing...that we would unknowingly arrive at that area, and I wonder if you would have any comments on that.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Hudkins.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Yes, thank you, Madam President. To address Senator Hillman's question previously, Senator Schimek's and yours, that is the reason why there are not as many...as much cost from Douglas County is that, Senator Hillman, yes, they do contract with private facilities and I was not aware of that, so I am sorry, I didn't tell you exactly what was true. The, and you are right, Senator Wehrbein, the cost from Douglas County possibly could increase, we just don't know.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay, thank you. I was just...I am bringing this up because so often this happens innocently, I will say, that a program such as this, which I have stated I probably will support at least at the first stage of debate, but I am going to