

thing to do. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Madam Speaker, members, at some risk at this point to go ahead, I am going to oppose Senator Beutler's amendment. I guess that is the issue in front of us. It is particularly because I don't quite understand how this will play into this...this bill. I, too, am going to vote to move the bill along, but I want to understand much more clearly the impact of what it does and how it affects all counties because I did not know the impact, for example, on Douglas County until this morning. I understand what Senator Beutler's amendment does, but I don't think at this point in my mind that it's the answer that I think I want to go, and so instead of putting it in, in my mind, and then perhaps taking it out on Select File, we're in a working out agreement among us to find a better solution to this as it fits into a total package on the property tax relief issue. And it was my understanding, and I'll admit I can't find it, I thought there was a bill in that was looking at the cost that counties are paying now at Beatrice and other institutions, the \$3 a day. I thought there was a bill on that, and I can't put my finger on it right at this point. But for that reason, I am going to oppose Senator Beutler's amendment right at this time. I may well accept that in the future. It is not that I necessarily oppose it, but I just don't know its ramifications enough to know if this is the answer to the issue that we are raising because I am concerned that we are going to run the state's cost up much more than we realize. It may be all right. It may be all right that we'll take over a million dollars in this program over time in the near future, but I think we ought to do it with our eyes wide open and know it, and until I know exactly how the impact is, in this brief fifteen minutes, I am going to oppose his amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Beutler, if you could answer just a couple of quick questions. I was called off the floor for a minute, probably missed this pertinent information, but Senator Lynch has piqued my curiosity more than anything else in this. Does your amendment affect all counties the same?