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LB 849

what Senator Janssen brought up, maybe bring in some other way to help fund at least part of this. But I'm sure that that's something that can be dealt with as we move ahead. But again, I do support the...I do support the bill. Thank you, Senator Hartnett, and thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Baker, on AM1740 to LB 849. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. This isn't a paid political announcement or anything, but we're going to schedule a couple of sessions on our new defibrillator, next Tuesday and Thursday, at one o'clock. So those people who are interested in that, learning about the defibrillator and what not, Senator Suttle and I are going to put together a little workshop, next Tuesday and Thursday, both. So attend one session or the other would be great. I rise to support this amendment and the bill. I praise Senator Hartnett and his staff. I missed the meeting that they put a lot of this together, but I feel very comfortable with the amendment. It gives accountability, and the ease of administering this fund, as the Secretary/Treasurer of our local fire district, I can see that it's going to work very well, and we are going to have accountability. I know it's been mentioned it's a potential expensive route to go. I think it's a potentially inexpensive route to go, actually inexpensive, I repeat myself. With the falling number of EMT's and firemen in the small communities, we don't really have an option to have a paid fire department in our small, rural communities; it's just not there. So we need to really concentrate on keeping volunteers. And ten years is quite a commitment to make. I would suggest maybe, after this has been going for a few years, we'll come back, no doubt, and revisit it, and we might want to look at five or eight years, or something, as people move around. I know we get a lot of school teachers and so on and recruit them as firemen and EMTs. So that's something we may want to do down the road. I wish we could make it retroactive somehow or other. I think I have 22 years in, that would be great. I could go to Alaska fishing when I retire here. But anyway, I do think it's an inexpensive route to go and one that we really need to address. We have a problem with these people falling out of the system. And I remember now the discussion on General File, Senator Stuhr, some