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this and provide it, who's going to pay in that case? Is the state going to pick up the cost for all of the newborns in the state, or are we going to put this on the backs of the parents of these newborns, if they're not covered by Medicaid?

SENATOR BYARS: No, this isn't on the back of those people not covered by Medicaid. We have what's call the standard of care. A standard of care includes certain testing procedures. We have multitudes of them now that need to be done in hospital facilities. OB-GYNs, pediatricians, hospitals, the insurance companies have come together to say what is the standard of care. Newborn hearing screening would be folded into that standard of care. At that point the birthing facility and the insurance carriers negotiate into that package of screenings that are provided. So it's then folded into the insurance coverage that they provide.

SENATOR REDFIELD: So, in essence, the insurance companies will have to pick up this cost?

SENATOR BYARS: They agreed to pick up this cost. Without a mandate it becomes...they tell me it's a negotiated thing with them and the hospitals. And basically, what they want to do is provide the care. They have agreed to do that, make it a standard of care so they will pick up that coverage, but they don't want it to be called a mandate.

SENATOR REDFIELD: That's interesting, a mandate that isn't a mandate. We don't call it that, so it isn't a mandate. I do have some other questions I will bring up when we get to the bill. The only thing I would address to the body is Senator Wehrbein addressed the fact that the grant funding from the federal government runs out in three years. So at that point in time the state would be picking up the full cost of the Medicaid patients, I think we need to keep that in mind. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I'm going to speak just a little bit about LB 950 in general and some experiences I've had with...working with people who have had hearing problems. Just a couple weeks ago,