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realistic.

This really should be a standard of care, and I would think that it would virtually be malpractice for any hospital or doctor to fail to give this test for the reasons that Senator Pedersen has talked about. And Senator Vrtiska raised a question, a good, practical question, what kind of equipment does it take? About a month ago, there was a breakfast, over at Hruska, put on by the organization of speech and hearing, I don't know exactly if that's the name of their...of their organization or not, and I don't know whether you were there at that breakfast, probably about a dozen of us were. But the piece of equipment that it takes is about the size of our laptop. They had it there and they showed it, they gave us a demonstration. As a matter of fact, they hooked Senator Engel up and used him to take the demonstration. And it's a thing that looks about like the laptop, and you put plugs in the ears and it replicates certain sounds, and the machine can read back whether the infant or the child has good hearing or not. You know every hospital in this state has computers, laptops, all kinds of equipment. It's not going to be a big burden for them to have a piece of equipment about like this that can test the hearing of primarily infants. And I think that it would certainly be a detriment to our children if we failed to advance this bill. And with the committee amendments I think it's a very realistic approach. I would urge the adoption of the committee amendments and the advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, those individuals who have spoken on behalf of the bill. I just want to take a moment and we can move this, I think, very quickly. In response to Senator Redfield's concern, that as federal funding falls off it's going to get more expensive. We have maximized what we're estimating the state's cost to be on that. If anything, as more money becomes available federally, it will get less expensive. Congress has...has...is asking for an appropriation 500 percent larger than the appropriation they have for this three-year period, for the next fiscal cycle, because they see this to be a very, very worthwhile thing. So we've maximized the federal...the state's participation in this, and I just can't see us getting more Medicaid births, unless we