SENATOR ERDMAN: Your intent is to ensure that as this process goes forward that the proposal or the plan, whatever comes out of this, would not do anything without shifting the costs of providing medical services to county government or to the providers of care.

SENATOR BYARS: That is correct.

SENATOR ERDMAN: So there would be no...and I agree in philosophy with what's here. My question is, is it appropriate at this point to put into statute or to put as a part of this procedure that this...and I'm opposed to this as well, just so you're aware...that this is not something that would be looked at, considering the fact that we have the proper checks and balances within an advisory council who includes elected officials and providers and the consumers. That would be a part of this formal process. If you would like to comment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Yes, I certainly would, Senator Erdman. This is absolutely my intent because I have watched as we have made changes in this body over the years.   There has not been the aforethought given to what happens when we do make changes in any of the funding programs that we have responsibility for in this state, and I think it needs to be part of the intent in public policy of this body that we're not going to make decisions on the backs of other people who are already more vulnerable, and those are the people who provide services, and those are the other government entities that are already squealing, just like we have been. And I think we need some intent language to tell them, and this isn't to try to harm the study in any way. This is to put intent language in that say, no, public policy that we dictate, that we have control of, is not going to be part of this of cost-shifting to those that can least afford it.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Senator Byars.   Members of the Legislature, (laugh) my concern is this. I'm in full support with what Senator Byars proposes, and here's my thought. If the