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SENATOR BYARS: Right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is that true?

SENATOR BYARS: That is correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Byars. And that's the understanding I had when I read the amendment, when I talked to Senator Byars. But in view of Senator Erdman's questions on the record, I want to make it clear that I still support his amendment. I've elicited from Senator Byars his intent, and that intent includes my understanding and my meaning and, therefore, it's no problem for me to support his amendment. It's not going to take away any prerogatives of that committee in terms of what it studies. But what is not being put on the table as a viable way to address increased Medicaid costs would be a shifting of those increased costs to the counties or to the care providers. That's all I would have at this time. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Erdman. Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Members of the Legislature, trying to discuss with Senator Byars a possible way to further clarify or to get a better understanding of his amendment and trying to work that out off the floor to further clarify this. I'm in support of his philosophy. He knows my philosophy as well. As I look back at what we have done in the Legislature, I have opposed the attempts that have been made to shift costs to county government in other areas, and I think that that is appropriate. I want to make sure that when we're doing this that we're not overlooking something, and an example again goes back to the copays. In the event that an individual wouldn't have the ability to make that copay, that's a cost that somebody will have to pay and it potentially could go back to the provider. And I...that's the best example that I have to come up with, and so I apologize that I continue to use that, but I want to make sure that we're solving a problem without eliminating opportunities. It's not an opportunity in my mind