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LB 709

mentioned the need to undertake a broad-based approach to this issue, namely Senator Byars. I submit that AM1057 is a way that we can incorporate a much more broad-based approach to the study, and I would certainly encourage the members of the Legislature to adopt this amendment. Thank you, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Synowiecki. You've heard the opening on AM1057, offered by Senator Synowiecki to the committee amendments to LB 709. Open for discussion, Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I appreciate Senator Synowiecki's opening and I think he clarified the difference between potentially his amendment and Senator Chambers' amendment. There are, however, some substantial similarities. The other thing that I think is important to note, the employer itself is actually not insulated. They may be insulated from the HIPAA regulations but, just for the record's clarification, they're not insulated. Their information would be distributed as a part of the report. But I would like to ask Senator Synowiecki a question, if I may.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Would you yield, Senator Synowiecki?

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Yes, of course.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Senator Synowiecki, the way that your amendment is set up as far as the reporting, the individual provider would gather the information from the patient and then they would submit that information on a quarterly basis to the Department of Health and Human Services. Is that correct?

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Yes.

SENATOR ERDMAN: And are you envisioning a cost associated with that procedure because, as I recall earlier, Senator Byars offered an amendment that we shouldn't be shifting the cost on to providers, and I'm trying to be consistent, and so I'm trying to see what you have thought in that area to determine how we could accomplish your goal.