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FLOOR DEBATE

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program. I think we need to cool down here a little bit and think prudently. This program started out very small 15 years ago. Over the years it's grown a little bit, little bit here and a little there. Sometimes it gets chopped back during the lean years, but then it rebounds, like every other program. Yes, we can find some more dollars to put in this program. Double it? I don't think so. I don't think that's prudent. I ask you to vote no on this reconsideration. I'll work with Senator Janssen. I'll work with Senator Schimek, Senator Thompson and others, and we'll find...we'll find a dollar...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Foley.

SENATOR FOLEY: ...level that works. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Foley. Further discussion? Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I've been listening very closely to this debate and I listened to the debate in Health and Human Services Committee, and I am supportive of this. I am supportive of, you know, trying to provide this service for the low-income people at a reasonable distance of travel. But I want to give you a few of the facts that I'm really concerned about, and that has to do with the amount of dollars that's provided for this service that's in the HHS budget that is given for that type of service. And there's only so many of the health departments and providers that do this service. But if you're going to put it out, you know, and make it available for a lot more health departments to do it, a lot more agencies to do it, and you're not putting any more money into it, what in my opinion is going to happen is that the providers that are doing it right now for X amount of dollars, contract service for the state to provide that service to the low-income people, what is going to happen, there's only a pool of money and I see that the dollars that will be given for that service is going to be lowered. If your health department wants to do it for X amount of dollars, we'll reimburse you for that. Whatever the additional expense is for it, you're going to have to absorb that in your health department. I've seen this happen way too many times in the