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SENATOR ERDMAN: Senator Baker, the handout that you've given us that talks about the current consolidations, what is the statute now that requires them to consolidate?

SENATOR BAKER: There is not one.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay, thank you. Members of the Legislature, I think if you review the language in Senator Fischer's amendment and if you look at the language that's actually in the bill, you'll find some similarities on the issue of consolidation. There is language in the original bill, or at least in the amendments, that say that you won't be reimbursed if you are not under a consolidation model, which is same as a voluntary idea. You have that option of whether you want to proceed down that path and not get reimbursed or not. The idea that by passing the Fischer amendment on the issue of consolidation it somehow takes it off the table, that's simply not true. It simply allows the Public Service Commission the authority to decide, because the language is changed from "shall reimburse" to "may." It simply allows them to make that decision, which is currently what we have in the process. Now the difference is, is that it changes the dynamics a little bit, but again, you're still looking to try to find efficiencies. If you look at the map, and Senator Baker is correct, there's a number of counties in my legislative district, both that are affiliated or consolidated with Scottsbluff/Gering's call center as well as the one that's in Keith County, those counties are doing that currently and they're recognizing the need to have efficiencies and they're recognizing the need to work together with one another. So I think we should be cautious about how we paint this. They're doing this now. All of this wonderful map that Senator Baker has given us is under the current law, which doesn't mandate consolidation. Senator Fischer's amendment doesn't mandate consolidations. It gives discretion to the Public Service Commission on how to allocate the funds necessary for the implementation of the service. So I think we should be careful, just simply on the fact that what is meeting the eye here on this map could very well happen under the Fischer amendment. And if the idea that Senator Fischer has brought to us helps us through this process, this is not a one-time problem that we're going to fix with one bill. As Senator Baker has pointed out