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understand why I see this as a more urgent issue than my colleagues. People call me from you-all's districts. I get far more calls from other people's district than my own, and I don't tell people, you're not in my district so go somewhere else. If we're not talking about prioritization, then we should not have language in the findings which relate to that. As I mentioned to Senator Erdman, in this program the findings and the declaration of public policy have more significance and carry more weight than they do where other bills are concerned. Where other bills are concerned, you could eliminate the findings or the statement of policy, because the bill is designed to say if certain conduct occurs, certain consequences will follow. The findings are just by way of a rationale for that particular approach, the cause and effect. When you get to these findings, you're giving direction to people who are not members of the Legislature. You're giving unelected people the power to make decisions, to change programs, to have monumental impact on the lives of people who cannot help themselves. That impact, under the current law, cannot take place without intervention by the Legislature. I'm talking again about proposed changes in the amount that a recipient will have to contribute toward these medical services or a reduction in the services that will be received. When you talk about prioritization you can talk about one class of beneficiaries over another, or recipients--the old versus the children--or you can talk about those who have certain ailments. If somebody has a disease which is likely to be fatal but it can be treated to ease that person out of this world, or a person over here with a disease which can be cured, which do you treat if you can treat only one? The priority is established when you select one over the other. Or you can look at the individual. You can say this person has a number of ailments. There's not enough money to provide treatment for all of them, so which ailments are going to be treated and which will go untreated? So there are different levels where priorities can be established, but since this bill refers to them, some kind of priority is going to have to be dealt with. And in line 6, on page 2, are the words "policies and priorities," then, on line 7, "must be established." They must be established, but nobody wants to talk about them.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.