

in additional revenues from the increase to \$15.00 per day and approximately \$400,000 from the Emergency Protective Custody provision which will replace general fund expenditures. Your general fund is spending this money disproportionate to actual costs and disproportionate to the amount of admissions on the Emergency Protective Care. I have distributed to each of you yesterday an accounting of the Medicaid savings in your district and also the DPI estimation of the costs, what those increases would be under 827. These estimated costs do not include the EPC admissions, but in most cases the savings on Medicaid would far exceed the additional cost incurred under the advancement or adoption of this legislation. Again, I would also like to suggest to you that those counties which provide for their EPC patients, such as Scottsbluff County, and in other community based facilities should not have to carry the disproportionate share for the counties which find it more convenient simply to utilize our state regional centers. I would like to ask for the advancement of this piece of legislation. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Howard Peterson.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I am surprised at Pat Morehead who is now an Indian giver. She says it is fine for us to pick up the bill from the counties for Medicare and Medicaid but we ought to charge the counties for the regional centers over which they really have very little authority. Specifically, if you go to the regional center, Pat, you full well know that it is not the county board that decides when that patient comes out, it's DPI. So why shouldn't the state carry the burden? Why should the county? I have in my file, I have heard from Irene Abernathy, the Chairman of our County Board, saying that our board has taken an opposition to it. I have here a letter from Johnson County signed by the Chairman of that County Board in opposition. I had a phone call from the County Board in Madison County in opposition. I have a letter here from the Seward County Commissioners in opposition. I have a letter here from the Adam County Commissioners in opposition. I have a letter here from Pierce County Commissioners in opposition. Even