

May 2, 1979

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for two or three points...two or three reasons. First of all what Senator Hoagland's amendment does is not... it does not affect the amount that it's going to cost you this year or next year at all. All he's saying is that we should drop off the third and fourth year of reduction of costs, or the state's taking over the counties' share. What this particular amendment does, and we took the original bill, called for the state to take over three-fourths of the counties' share. We, in the spirit of compromise, agreed with the Governor and with a number of other senators in the chamber here to cut it so that the state would take over half of the counties' share. We've already compromised it that way, and now what Senator Hoagland would have us do would go back to a point where we were only taking over twenty-five percent of the counties share. New York and Nebraska are the only two states in the whole United States, all fifty, that have this kind of a participation to this extent I mean by the counties. The federals and the state make the rules, the regulations the criteria for qualification of medicaid, which is another way of saying welfare, we are the ones that determine the cost. We are in this particular bill deciding who shall pay the cost. The counties have nothing to say about who shall qualify, what criteria there is or anything else. The state and the feds do that. What Senator Hoagland is saying, in essence, is that this is the way we should control the costs. It isn't. This is not the way to control costs. It has nothing to do with controlling costs, but I assure you the Health and Welfare Committee has already agreed to take up the method of reimbursement for medicaid as a project for this summer. We will be coming in with legislation to help control the costs. This bill doesn't do it. This bill...all this bill does is determine who shall pay the costs, whether it be the state or the county, and in this particular case we have said, okay the state will take over half of the counties share. The county then would have to pay ten percent of the cost. The state would pay thirty-three percent of the cost. The feds would pay fifty-seven percent of the cost. That's all in the world we're doing. We've already compromised it. The Governor has agreed to the compromise. Any number of the senators that we talked to in here, they agreed to the compromise, and now at the last minute Senator Hoagland would have us come in and undo the compromise and go his way. I am saying let's not adopt the Hoagland amendment. Let's leave the bill the way it is. Thank you.