

back tremendously. We went through this a while ago with some legislation dealing with spend down for our elderly when they had to lose so much of their assets and incomes and we said that was wrong and we did make some adjustments. Well, now we're saying the amount that they...the pittance that we allow them to live on is likewise needing an adjustment, falls in line with that philosophy and I think once again the bottom line of what we're trying to do here is bring back some dignity to these individuals that so longingly deserve that respect that they feel they have lost. As many of you know, those individuals in nursing homes, it's a situation many of us would not tolerate and to not allow them the chance to be able to have decent clothing that they'd like to have, maybe have their hair fixed every once in a while, live lives of dignity, seems to me a small price to pay to those individuals. So I'd ask very much your support for this bill and I understand that we are open to negotiation on the dollar figures.

SENATOR WARNER: Next is Senator Peterson, followed by Senator Robinson, Lynch, Smith and Nelson. Senator Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON: Mr. President and colleagues, I can't argue what this is intended to do, a great idea and I can't argue on that. But we're going to have a lot of other bills that people are going to stand up; this is the starting of the session, to, great, how great it is, we've got to have money for it. Where is the money going to come from? I've been asking it for a year or so and I've been predicting that in '91 we was going to start in a financial crunch and if you look around at many other states that are looking at billion to \$4 billion deficits, our state, I think next year, will have less money and we'll have to cut programs. My question is the amount of money. There is going to be a lot of other deals or bills put out here that people are going to stand up and say we've got to have it, it's great. But Senator Wesely mentioned the federal money. There is a question in my mind, if the federal money is going to come back in the next year or two, if they're going to shape up back there and cut our deficit, we're going to have less money. So are we going to go ahead and pass this type of a bill and other ones and then shake it out and see who gets a penny or two? I don't know. But I will probably sit back, I probably won't vote for the bill as it stands, and I just figure we're going to have to...we're going to be in here cuttin' instead of spendin' and it doesn't seem to be the mood of this Legislature unless we raise taxes, and people, I heard Senator Smith said, by golly, I