

amendment?

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, Senator Smith's amendment would cut the amount from 45 to 40 dollars a month available for personal care spending. We're now \$30 a month for most individuals, 35 for some. Actually, we're at \$90 for individuals that are in veterans facilities, a month to spend. So there is some disparity among the different individuals that are needed in these care settings. This would save a substantial amount of money. And I know previously, as Senator Smith and I discussed the bill, we talked about trying to compromise. I think this is a worthy compromise. Keep in mind again we're talking about, currently, a dollar a day being able to be spent by these individuals to live on. We were asking for \$1.50 a day, now we're back to \$1.33 a day, I guess, or something like that. It's not a tremendous amount of money, but it would save substantially. So I would support the Smith amendment to reduce the fiscal impact of the bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Nelson, did you wish to discuss the amendment?

SENATOR NELSON: Just a question of Senator Wesely, or Senator Smith. Senator Wesely, then would this, and I should have known this, would this then put the ones in the veterans home at \$40 a day, too, or do they still get a higher amount?

SENATOR WESELY: I don't believe it's drafted to do that. I don't know if we can even affect the veterans, but there are others out there under state that we could. I think, if we wanted to, we couldn't reduce the veterans money.

SENATOR NELSON: Senator Smith is shaking her head. Help me out, Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you. I'd be glad to respond to that. This is impacting only those that are at that lower level. We can't...the federal level is the one that made the determination on like veterans. Theirs has increased already. And you have two people in one room, sometimes, where you have a disparity there between \$30 and maybe 80 or 90 dollars a month.

SENATOR NELSON: And the veterans is federally, and we do nothing about it.