

10-08-09 Email from Rep. Curt Schroder

Ruth - I have an amendment ready to run today to protect the MCARE money from the raid.

Curt Schroder

10-08-09 Email from Rep. Chris Ross

I am very strongly opposed to the diversion of funds from the MCARE as proposed in the Eachus amendment A4410. Despite the fact that this amendment addresses other needed issues that I have spoken out about, I will vote no on this amendment and if it passes, no on the bill.

Chris

10-08-09 Email from Rep. Tom Killion

I agree and voted no. Unfortunately bill passed House along party lines.

Tom Killion

10-08-09 Email from Rep. Tim Hennessey

Hi Dr. Holland,

Thank you for your e-mail asking us to protect the HCPRA funds. I agree, and I specifically cited this raid on the funds in my speech on the House floor a few days ago as a reason to oppose that bill (HB 1531). I used a line from The Godfather movie ----" You can steal more money with a briefcase than you can with a gun", in decrying this misuse of those funds. I argued that the state's budget crunch didn't somehow make this raid okay, or proper. Nonetheless, the majority went ahead and passed it, and sent it on to the Senate.

Today, in a separate bill (HB 1407) they've repeated that action. Despite the arguments we raised, the House majority seems as intent as ever on grabbing that money, and it seems very likely that they will succeed. Then we'll have to await the lawsuit which is sure to follow, to restore that money to the doctors.

After that happens, we'll have to reopen the budget mid-year, and deal with tax-increase proposals to fill the gap.

Tim Hennessey

10-08-09 Email from Sen. Folmer's office.

Dear Dr. Holland,

Thank you for sharing with Senator Folmer your concerns with the proposed use of MCARE moneys to help balance the state budget.

Senator Folmer agrees with you and is opposed to this plan.

Thank you for taking the time to contact Senator Folmer on this important issue.

Marie Tribioli
Office of Senator Mike Folmer