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certainly if they're at a job, they don't require the care that they would if they were, oh, in some institutional environment or in a group home or whatever. Many of these people live in group homes and they're transported to work, but it is a situation that I think society can gain by having these people have...find meaningful employment. With that, I will return the remainder of my time back to the Chair.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I would like to ask Senator Lynch a question or two.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Lynch, would you respond?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: If you gave it, I didn't hear what the cost potential could be in this as we expand this. It's actually expanding Medicaid or raising the standard for Medicaid coverage I understand. So is there a cost?

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Then I didn't catch it.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes, and I am sorry. I should have just offered that without being asked. I think it's been estimated that well over 100 people may qualify under this particular proposal, and the General Fund dollars for that for '99 and 2000 would be \$144,410. The problem with the fiscal note is though, Roger, and you are the boss of the Appropriations Committee, it doesn't take into account the difference between the people that would continue to work and the dollars that would not be spent for those people because they're working, providing for themselves in the cost of food stamps, subsidized housing, utility assistance, and the additional income revenue coming from the taxes they pay on their income. How much of the \$144,000 would be offset by that I honestly can't tell you. I did know what they did not include and I thought I should throw that in.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay. I just want to provide a note of caution. It's a good program and I do understand, \$500 a month is not very much to be losing your benefits, and with those that