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contracted case managers. LB 264 introduces prevention to the Health and Human Service child welfare system. It would allow the department to implement preventative services, such as home visitation programs, child screening, and early intervention, and parenting education programs. The bill would keep kids from ever becoming a part of the child welfare system, allowing us to meet another of the four principles--greater focus of our limited resources. Home visitation is a key to a preventative program, and the Governor's Children's Task Force, which examined the more than 30 child deaths between 1998 and 2003, agrees, and you can, if you would, take a look at handout number two which refers to the child task force, gives an explanation. The task force data cited that 40 percent of child maltreatment episodes could have been prevented with home visitation. Reducing child maltreatment episodes by 40 percent would dramatically reduce the number of children who enter the child welfare system each and every year, saving the state money and keeping children safe. Dr. Stacie Bleicher, a pediatrician and a member of the task force, has submitted a letter outlining the financial and human savings we could achieve. That also is included in your handouts. While this bill gives the department the flexibility to determine how a visitation would work, let me share my vision. Professional home visitors, such as our Visiting Nurse Association, would be referred by hospitals, physicians, health departments, or the public to families who exhibit risk factors that may put them in our system. The nurses would visit the families and help the families with a wide variety of needs, such as nutrition, child discipline, health, or access to services. I favor the nurses' involvement because I think healthcare professionals, as opposed to government workers, will be better received by the families at risk. This will result in more children receiving preventative services before there is a problem, rather than after. It is important to note that LB 264 doesn't mandate preventative programs. Rather, it enables Health and Human Services to offer home visitation and other preventative services. That's why at this time there is no fiscal impact. For the other two pieces of the bill, let me take you back to the Governor's Children's Task Force report. In Section 5 of this report you find the following: One of the most troubling findings of the task force is the heavy caseloads child protective service workers are