

amendment also indicates that it applies to something differently than what we're talking about which is unemployment compensation and that an issue like this may well be better addressed in statute in the workers compensation side or some of the laws that govern employer provided health insurance. And there is a third issue I guess, is that in Nebraska we have a number of drug treatment programs that are available and there may be more, but I would run through the list. One is an outpatient treatment program which is, I would imagine, a little bit like Alcoholics Anonymous where you meet a couple of times a week over a three or four-month period. Then we have halfway houses which are a combination of residential and outpatient treatment. Then we have partial care treatment which is a day or evening treatment that meets 15 hours a week, three to five hours a week, lasting between eight and twelve weeks. Short-term residential and chronic care are the two more restrictive drug treatment programs. It's a little difficult to assess the cost of these programs because the costs are based upon what people can afford to pay to attend the programs. It's really not based on income guidelines, but rather upon the person's ability to pay. We checked with the Department of Public Institutions. They say that if a person has no money and decided to enter a drug treatment program, then DPI would pay for it. It doesn't really matter on what the salary was of the person prior to getting into a problem, but rather upon their ability to generate money to pay for the program as to how much the cost might be to them. The major options that we have in front of us today under current statute of paying for a program, there are at least four ways. One is insurance which Senator Wesely addresses; two, that the Department of Public Institutions will pay for a program if the person meets income and asset guidelines; then, three, a sharing of the cost between DPI and the individual; or the fourth option, in the case of a person that has enough assets, a total support of payment of the cost by the individual who is receiving the treatment. I would suggest perhaps, Senator Wesely, that a better course of event might be if we co-opted an interim study in this issue with the idea...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...of coming back next session of the Legislature with language that might address all of our concerns. Thank you.