

down and they now are on, partially on what we call welfare, if you want to call it that. I don't think that the nursing home industry, if you want to call it the industry, really would have the right to determine whether or not or whose relatives could afford to help them out. I mean, they don't have the right to do that, to go out into the public and say, well, you have these relatives and then talk to the relatives about how much money that you have, you should be helping pay for this person. There is nothing that could require that.

SENATOR ROBINSON: I see this in rest homes all the time. This is the problem that we have and it certainly balloons the cost of it too, but, thank you for your answer.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Lynch followed by Senator Smith and Nelson. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, I won't repeat everything that has been said already except that this is one of the first and probably a very good example of those hopes, dreams, wishes and good ideas that some people have that feel should be accomplished by the state for people in the state. They don't know, we don't know, Senator Peterson doesn't know, none of us knows yet what we can afford to do. But this is an important and a good idea and it should be able to take its place with all of the other spending that will happen in the State of Nebraska. For us to prematurely suggest that we should not even consider this kind of an idea because we're not quite sure yet what we can afford simply keeps in place whatever agency spends at the present time and assumes that that's the best way we should spend our money. I think we have an obligation here in the Legislature not only to continue to talk about these kinds of good ideas and hopes and dreams and wishes but also give them the chance to take their place with whatever we've been spending money on in the past. And so it deserves to be considered favorably today, kept in the mainstream and, when we get to the point where enough of us know what we're spending money on, we can make those kinds of priority and tax decisions at the time, so I would hope we would support it.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Smith, followed by Senator Nelson. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: I will just pass and say what I have to say in closing.