

two categories, and yet there is one category on Medicaid and one on state supplement, and that state supplement would pick up the other.

SENATOR ROBINSON: But what is it, about half and half in rest homes, half of the families pay for their...for having their people in the rest homes, and the other half are paid for by Medicaid? Isn't it something like that, or it is 50-50 or about 60-40, something in there, isn't it?

SENATOR SMITH: The breakdown, I can't really tell you what the breakdown is on those that are paying, but I can tell you the breakdown on those that are on Medicaid versus state supplement. Those that are on Medicaid would be like the long-term residents and there are 8,000 of them. That is particularly your elderly clients, and then the short term that are convalescing, you know, they are there and then they are going to go back home once they get to a better condition, there is 124 of those, a monthly average, two different categories.

SENATOR ROBINSON: There is no money that goes...is there any money that goes to people that are taking care of their own people in the homes? This just goes...money just goes to the people that are in those two categories, is that correct?

SENATOR SMITH: If you have the ability to take care of yourself, then you haven't given up your Social Security check and you are paying the cost of staying in the nursing home, and so there isn't anything that deals with any allowance because you keep your check. If you become a person who through, let's say, time, I can give you, as I think I have done in the past, the example of my in-laws where he, first of all, became ill, was in the nursing home for three years, died slowly of cancer. By that time, all of their funds were gone, and he had become a Medicaid client. And so what happened is that they lose their Social Security check, it goes to help pay the costs...

SENATOR ROBINSON: I know.

SENATOR SMITH: ...and they retain \$30 for personal needs health care items. That is what we are doing here, we are dealing with those people that have had, for some reason or other, to become a welfare, if you want to call it that, a client in a nursing home.