

it. But the automatic pilot it is now on is something that is destined to go directly into the ground because we can't afford to continue doing it. It is one of those things that everybody thinks, well, if we can survive a little bit longer, this one has gotten too big. It has gotten way to out of hand and I am just talking about if the...Nebraska is a business, the State of Nebraska is a business, that is the problems it is causing us all by ourselves. Take the added health care cost to the private business person and the private individual, it is even more of a problem, as well as those individuals that can't afford health care. The Medicaid problem, as I said, at the minimum is \$25 million. With the lawsuit, it is probably at least \$35 million, and actually it is probably going to be 45 to 50 million dollars a year, million dollars a year. You are talking large percentages of our budget, and if we are not willing to raise sales and income taxes to pay for those things, we are talking huge, huge budget reductions to make room for Medicaid. Something simply has to give. I don't know about Senator Hall's amendment. It is one of those things that everybody needs to understand how serious the problem is. The providers need to understand that something has to give on their side of the fence because we can no longer just simply afford...the state can no longer simply afford to simply write the check unless they want to cut education,...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR MOORE: ...unless they want to cut mental retardation and a variety of other things. If this discussion serves no other purpose today on Senator Hall's amendment, it is to make it clear to everyone the consequences of our decision and the things that we must do in the upcoming months in preparing for out Medicaid problems in 1993.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Before I proceed with the next speaker, I would like to introduce some guests of the Legislature. First of all, we have 60 fourth graders from Howard Elementary in Grand Island. They are guests of Senator Nelson, and we have their teachers with them. Would you please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. And also Senator Bohlke has two guests under the north balcony. We have Phyllis and Les Lawless from Hastings. Will you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. The next speaker is Senator Warner.