

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...one of the things that's always bothered me about the way we do business is the fact that for one reason or another, and this is not about mammography specifically, but we seem to, although we can't afford even to take care of the poor, apparently, we seem to involve ourselves in programs that affectively subsidize the middle class and even the wealthy. And maybe I'm misconceptualizing this, but it seems to me that a person who's making, for example, \$150,000 a year, they're going to get an insurance policy that takes care of mammography, even though that person could clearly afford to do it themselves and cost would not be a factor. So we structure a program that has this kind of effect instead of more narrowly focusing it on all those to whom costs may be a factor in deciding whether or not to do this, that's my question, whether it couldn't be more narrowly focused and not be essentially a subsidization by other people who buy insurance of people who may be more wealthy than themselves, if you see what I mean.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I understand what you're saying and I, in some ways, I couldn't agree more with what you're saying. But we have already, under the program established by the Health Department, called "Every Woman Matters", we have taken care of those really low income women. But we have a lot of people who are working and who...maybe they're kind of close to being working poor, I mean they're...but they have health benefits. I doubt that...I mean I think that a \$79 or an \$85, or even in some cases a \$100 mammography is going to be something that they're going necessarily to prioritize. Now part of that has to do with education, but part of it also has to do with cost. And I...especially when you're talking about people on fixed incomes and people who don't have a lot of discretionary income, this is something that can be put off. I mean you can rationalize putting it off.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So what you seem to be saying is that the program for mammography that we have for the low income is not substantial enough to avoid cost as a factor in making a choice.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, Senator Beutler, I'm going to have to...I'm going to have to get, I guess, I'm going to have to have a talk with the insurance industry. But if you're talking about buying the policy as an individual rather than as a group,