

it will be a betrayal of the welfare task force that I participated in and the report that we issued two years ago which led to the passage of the bill last year because, from the beginning, through all our discussions we talked about health care and an assumption was made that it would be available. We assumed it would be done at a national level but, of course, that was all shattered last fall. But as Senator Chambers talked about, if you'll look at the language here, the bottom line of our study was health care is a major problem and welfare is a consequence of not having health care available and we have the caretaker relative issue that has come up where we cut off over 5,000 individuals and almost 1,000 of them ended up going on ADC because of the loss of the health care. Now it can be disputed about situations and all the specifics, but I can tell you this, that if we have health care available and it's affordable and people are there and have it, you will see far fewer people on welfare from the beginning and that's what we found, that's what we believed in, that's what we thought would be part of the solution, so if you want to prevent welfare, you provide health care and you don't specify in this amendment. Senator Jensen, I have to object to some of your comments. You talked about giving health insurance to individuals and I understand what you were trying to say, nothing in here says give health insurance to people. We're talking about studying the issue, trying to find what solutions there are to it. As I said, bills are already in the Legislature, but in my view, what we are saying is this is a goal, this is a direction we need to take, let's work with the Governor to find a way to accomplish that, let's make a commitment together to move in that way and how we accomplish it is up to us to determine. It will be something that we could find in the marketplace, for instance. The marketplace can be adjusted and do a much better job of writing health insurance. Or there are pooling aspects or other changes that don't necessarily have any additional subsidies or expenditures than what we already do. I mean, there are other alternatives, but it could end up, and I don't want to deny this that we find a way to help subsidize low income people to have health care. That's a possibility, but that's not what this says. This says here's a place we should be going, let's start moving in that direction. Now we talk about the Governor doing this and the reason is, is that in the past the governors had to play a very important role in health care. Yeah, we've studied health care a lot as a Legislature, but in the end it's when the Governor and the executive branch have gotten involved and helped us with finding solutions that together we have passed