

Nebraskans and do so in, because of the federal match, in a more cost-effective manner than some other alternatives. In fact, a lot of states have really moved forward in a major way to try and expand as much as possible Medicaid coverage to try to bring in a great deal of additional dollars. We have not done that as much. We've done a little bit of that, but really not nearly as much as some states. But, again, trying to separate out the categories of Medicaid are... is the intent here and that's what I'm offering up. What I want to also explain is actually I'm trying to wait for Liz Hruska to come up here with an amendment to the amendment because, in talking to the nursing homes, they would like to have not...right now the amendment calls for the nursing home facility costs to be separated out and not the home health part of long-term care and it really does need to be part of this and I've agreed to... with them to add that part of the... to the amendment and so when she gets here I'll be offering that amendment to the amendment. Just so you know again that long-term care is the biggest component of Medicaid, it is the largest cost factor in Medicaid. The second highest is inpatient hospital care and that is what we consider the acute care part and where we're focusing in on the managed care system. So with that I'll hope that Liz Hruska gets here in a minute and we can go forward with the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam Speaker and members, I support Senator Wesely's amendment and I also am... I don't think I can talk five minutes about this, but we are waiting for an amendment that will be improved because it will be more comprehensive in bringing it... allocating and determining the cost to fall under this long term nursing care. I don't have that list in front of me, but I definitely support this because it does help to be able to document where we're headed under the managed care part of this and so that we can get a better handle on the costs and the categories they fall into. So I don't know what you want to do, Senator Wesely, but I will support your amendment, especially the one that will be improved.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Madam President and members, and, Senator Wesely, I've been listening and maybe by now you got your amendment, but all I was going to say is you did say, and I think people should pay attention when we're talking about the