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approaching a crisis. We are approaching a budget buster for this state. We are number 4 in the nation of 85-year-olds and over per capita. We're number 6 in 75. We're about number 10 in 65-year-olds per capita. The average person going into a nursing home under private pay, within 11 months is on Medicaid. The average stay of an individual in a nursing home is about 2.8 years, an Alzheimer's patient 8 years. Senator Byars mentioned that those who are...who are in respite, those who are providing care for their loved ones in a home in all...with Alzheimer's, if they can have respite care, if they can have a couple, three, four hours a day, a week, they can sometimes go another year of providing that care and so the dollars just multiply when you see the savings that the state can make by providing simple care. Also, in many cases, I think the care is available. I think the care is available on a volunteer basis. It just needs the coordination. It needs to have a registry so the people can know where to go for...or where to go, how to obtain that care those few hours for somebody to come into their home and spell them, if you will, so that they can carry on their other activities. I talked to an individual who was caring for his spouse who had Alzheimer's and said that, you know, when we sit down to a meal and I need to go to the refrigerator to get something, I don't even walk. I run to get back to ensure that my wife has not taken food and tried to put it into her ear or whatever. And those are real issues. Those are real issues that touch every citizen, and it's not only just the Alzheimer's. It's those who have children with developmental disabilities. There are, in some cases, those who have children who are...have behavior problems that require constant supervision. It's just an area that these people are only looking for a few hours to spell them.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: And so I would really urge your attention to this issue, whether it be an investment, whether it be something that the state should enter into. But I think there are many of those people out there who are willing to volunteer for this, to be trained, and this comes as part of this. We have kids in this state who are on "G-buttons" that are fed through their abdomen and no one can...you can't call a baby-sitter up and say, come and take care of my child. It takes somebody with