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and I think those...I'm just telling that's the decisions that you'll be having to make come May as we do the appropriations budget and then the other A bills, such as this, that will follow the appropriations package. So just start thinking about where you want to make cuts if you want to do something like this. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to add a couple of thoughts to this discussion. This bill was advanced unanimously by the Health and Human Services Committee. We recognize that it adds more money to the budget. It is...it is something, however, that I feel needs to be made a priority in the state, and I just wanted to share with you a discussion that I had Friday morning. I spent the morning with people in my county working on aging issues and they are providers and consumers and others and this was a priority area. But one of the points that they made to me in terms of respite is that the worker shortage issues that we're facing in so many other places are also happening in terms of human services, and it's difficult to find people that you could hire. They feel the best way to approach this problem is with volunteers, as you've heard this morning, but we need to organize to do that. We need to provide training. We need to market these services so people know that they're available, and that's what we do as government. We come together and we organize for purposes that are important. This is not going to be able to happen without having a systematic way that we have organized to provide these services which are so vital and which you heard a lot of statements and references to the testimony we heard. So I urge you to make it a priority and advance this bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Chair recognizes Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Members of the body, I, too, support this bill and I also...I serve on the Appropriations Committee, as you know. I do believe that we have to be very, very careful of starting new programs, but I do believe that in this particular situation we do have to figure out in this body how we can