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SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body, I too endorse this bill as it was amended by the committee. I think it serves both a social and, as Senator Jensen has said, a business need of the state. This is for the adoption of children who are presently wards of the state so we're presently incurring expenses in connection with them and so we are giving a credit but the credit certainly offsets what our expense is. But let's turn just a minute away from the business and the social aspect of that and I would like to ask Senator Matzke a question, if he would yield.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Matzke.

SENATOR MATZKE: Yes.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Senator Matzke, I had a bill several years ago that had to do with the expenses that a family was incurring as a result of medical conditions that they were unaware of at the time of the adoption, and I'm...I would like you to tell me what exactly the precautions or the information that the department will make available to the families when they adopt these children. Because it isn't just a financial matter. In some cases it's a social and family matter and I would like to know that the...that the people who do adopt, you did mention that some of these children have, like, fetal alcohol, and things like that, problems and I would just like to know that the adopting family has some assurance of what it is that they are getting into. Thank you.

SENATOR MATZKE: Well, thank you, Senator Pederson. Your bill a couple of years ago supplemented the program that was already in existence, which provides that the Department of Health and Human Services, with both state and federal funds, can subsidize the medical needs and other related personal specific needs of state wards, and this bill would not in any way affect that. That program, which is partially funded sort of like a Medicaid program by state and federal funds, will continue. To be specific, if one of these children listed here in this handout has ongoing medical needs, those medical needs will be...are being met now; they will continue to be met even after the adoption. So this would in no way affect the benefits that are