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SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: So when we appropriate, as I understand the Exon v. Board of Regents case, if we appropriate the \$6 million or the \$4 million to cover these health care costs, or at least nominally for that purpose, it's the Board of Regents that will make the final decision. Is that correct?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: It should be, yes.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: And we have no, beyond the appropriation, we have no further authority.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Generally, yes.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Okay. When did you begin to address health care cost problems as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee for and on behalf of the people as it related to state employees?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, we had it a year ago in our deliberations in the committee.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: My health care costs for employees in my business have been going up for several years. Have you experienced that?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: I was required to anticipate that as they went up, over the several years. And that's what you did for state employees, isn't it?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Senator Wehrbein, if we were to go with the Governor's recommendation of \$4 million instead of \$6 million, is it your judgment, based upon your knowledge and experience as Chair of the Appropriations and a member of the body, that the