

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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past? Three questions, concerns. You can take your time if you want to. You don't have to respond to them, but I wanted everybody to know, if you had looked in your committee statement that there was a "no" vote, why it was there. That's why it's there and you're free to make whatever use of that information you want.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Landis. On the Bromm amendment, Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I also was in Banking Committee when we heard Senator Bromm's bill, and what we actually are going to derive out of the task force certainly is of question. However, it does...one of the rules of insurance is the larger the pool, the more people you have in it, you should bring some costs down. But we've also seen a spiraling of all health care cost and I certainly do condone and think about Wehrbein's comments when he says that we had a Medicaid deficit this year and don't expect that to go away in one year. I think it will be back with us again next year as health care continues to grow. Of course, \$9 million of that \$32 million was in pharmacy and drugs alone. That's not going to slow down either. But how we address these issues I think could be an issue that a task force could take a look at. Always, the situation of copay. There isn't any question about it, even a small amount of copay, even \$10 per office visit, has really a dramatic outcome in the cost of insurance, and a dramatic incidence of people...well, if they've got to put out \$10 each time they go to a doctor, sometimes they will wait until a cold goes away naturally rather than to the physician to get a little more medication or whatever it might be. But I think the task force is something that...that...and the number of people that make up the task force could give us some results and at least some indication about where we are and where we're going and so, for that, I think I...I think I will support Senator Bromm's amendment to LB 1217. It is an area that there just doesn't seem to be any ceiling on; that we are continuing to every year increase in costs and now it's a double-digit again, and anybody who has their health insurance elsewhere, like I happen to have, we took a look when we had a 21 percent increase and we did go with another company and ended up with about a 17 percent increase. But still, my goodness,