

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 28, 2000

LB 1405

Alzheimer's. This number is expected to double by 2030. Look at the neighbor on your left and the neighbor on your right, two of the three of you will be Alzheimer patients. Currently, approximately 77,000 Nebraskans have Alzheimer's disease, enough people to fill Memorial Stadium. Nebraska ranks among the top four states in the percent of people age 85 years and older. In a 1993 national survey, 19 million Americans said they had a family member with Alzheimer's disease, and 37 million said they knew someone with Alzheimer's disease. One in ten persons over 65, and nearly half of those over 85 have Alzheimer's disease. A small percentage of people as young as in their thirties and forties get this disease; 14 million Americans will have it by the middle of the next century, unless a cure or prevention is found. A person with Alzheimer's disease will live an average of 8 years and as many as 20 years or more with the onset of symptoms. Alzheimer's disease is the third most expensive disease in the United States, after heart disease and cancer. U.S. society spends at least \$100 billion a year on Alzheimer's disease. Neither Medicare, nor most private health insurance covers the long-term care most patients need; the average lifetime cost per patient is \$174,000. More than seven of ten people with Alzheimer's disease live at home; almost 75 percent of the home care is provided by their families and friends. The remainder is...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR SUTTLE: ...paid care, costing an average of \$12,500 a year; families pay almost all of that out of their own pocket. That's just the beginning of what they're trying to eradicate at the university. I have more information to give you on the many diseases that affect our brain and our nerve endings. I want you to be aware of what this research...the cost that is being asked us to give up if we pass this unconstitutional bill. I really want you to think about this and know that in the future things may be present in your life that you wish that you had...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you.