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take you back to the issue of how we go about, since we are charged with making public policy decisions that have a vision for the future, how do we go about dealing with something like...let's take something as simple as a hiring freeze. We want to impose a hiring freeze in government now so that two years from now someone can't say to us, it's too late, we've already negotiated this or that? How do you do that?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Impose a hiring freeze?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, I think...I don't know the numbers. I know we've cut enough people in the last couple years, based on agency budgets, that I can't imagine that there's any agency that has more employees than it did before, except maybe in an isolated case because of lawsuits or something like that. I mean I'll go into those on my own time, but...

SENATOR BRASHEAR: You can do it on mine. I'm...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I mean Health and Human Services, we proposed a \$12 million cut in administration, which is 300 employees. When they came in, they made their case strong. We have many, many employees working in casework that are, I'll say it mildly, they're fully employed. One of the dilemmas we have when we have tough times or difficult times, the workloads increases on states. It doesn't decrease. We have more people with poor and needy. We have more people that are...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...needing caseworkers. We are funneling more money to those in need, whether it's child welfare, whether it's healthcare. We've gone from...the Governor himself has...I heard him say 55 percent of our nursing home patients are on Medicaid. I was using 52 percent just a year ago. I have to confirm that, but we know that, for example, is going up.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: So your response on a hiring freeze is it won't achieve for us what it might theoretically seem like,