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the last ten years. So we have more children in schools, we have more children needing the services in our schools, and some of them, they need specialized services. Every time you have a bump in population, you're going to have a percentage of those kids who may be in families that aren't getting the right parenting across. They also may have a lot of significant problems of their own. So we're seeing a lot more state wards, more kids coming into our custody, where we take care of them because of the abuse and neglect in their families. And by virtue of the fact that there are more children in this state, 7.7 percent more children ages 7 to 17 in our schools than in 1990, in ten years, that's a population shift. The other thing we're seeing is a larger portion of older people in this state. And they're influencing our Medicaid budget. Of the people 85 and older in Nebraska, in the last ten years, that number has increased 16 percent as a percentage of our population. We're getting more...we have older people. They run out of resources, and they need the services, and they...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...should have the services. They've contributed to our state. They've contributed to our lives. And when they run out of money and they can't take care of themselves anymore, we should be taking care of them. And that's contributing to our Medicaid costs. It's very difficult to say, when you tighten your belts, we're not going to take care of the kids in school, which is...the percentage has grown of younger children; and we're not going to take care of our very elderly people. That's impacting our budget, as well as federal mandates, court decisions, and other structural issues in our state tax policy. It's all part of it. It isn't a wild frenzy of spending. As Senator Pederson explained to you, it's been a small percentage of increase. But it's being driven by the demographics of the population of the state, as well as federal mandates and court cases and other structural problems that we have with our tax structure that does...isn't modernized, and it's built in an old economy.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.