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And so I...touche, good point. I don't know that it's saved a lot of work force with computerization. Thanks. And I'll yield my...and you can have the time back.

**SPEAKER BROMM:** Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Brashear, the time is up. Senator Thompson, your light is next.

**SENATOR THOMPSON:** One thing we've kind of touched on,...thank you, Mr. Speaker...but I think it's important to this discussion, because it impacts us in so many ways in our state budget, and that is the costs of healthcare, the costs to us in terms...as Senator Wehrbein said, in terms of our employees, and as Senator Brashear pointed out. I can tell you, I was a state employee from 1991 to 1996, and I had...and even in that time, you know, the copays went from 10 bucks to 25. And you know, things have changed in negotiations over the years. I don't think anybody feels they're getting a whole lot more, in terms of their coverage, than they were years ago, even though we're paying a lot more for it. We're also paying a lot more on our Medicaid program for it, and I just want to cite some statistics that are the cost drivers in that program. And what you need to tell people when they say, tighten your belts, this is what's costing us more: long-term care and hospital care, prescription drugs, and increased enrollment. Prescription drug costs grew nearly 20 percent on average annually between 1998 and 2000. In the same period, managed care costs grew 16 percent, home care grew 12 percent. And this is nationally, for whatever program you're in. Your medical services increased by 9 percent. We're just moving along with the rest of the economy, in terms of the problems that we have in our budget because of the costs of medical care. And one of these, Senator Bromm, goes to a question that you asked about what bills are in committee that could help with the medical costs at the state prisons. And I had a bill for both the counties, and the administration asked me to put an amendment on to help the state. That bill is still sitting in committee and, essentially, it's this. Think of when you get your bill from the doctor's office and there's something that says actual cost, then there's something that says what's your insurance company's negotiated cost, and then there's what they're going to pay, and then there's what's your responsibility. If you're...if you've ever helped your elderly