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also of problems that they do have. This is an optional service that we here in Nebraska have provided under the Medicaid program. Remember, Medicaid originally was intended to take care of the elderly and of children, and so this is an expansion. It's not required by the federal government that we pick up these particular individuals, but we have chosen, since 1984, to do that. And I certainly have to admit if times were better that we can certainly look at this, and we have looked at it in the past and there's that gap that's in there that services are needed. As Senator Stuthman did say, for those facilities or those areas that have the federal qualified health clinics, you can obtain services there and they don't ask who you are or how much you've got. However, they will, if they can get Medicaid funds to service that, they certainly will. But again, this is an optional program that we here in Nebraska have instituted since 1984. I think without a doubt, if our budget was not in the shape that it was that we would continue this program. But with that, why, we've looked at everything. I convened a Medicaid task force that met six times last fall. We looked at all the programs and it's very difficult to make cuts and particularly where you have been funding a program. With that, I'll leave it up to the body on how they want to proceed on this matter, but just wanted to let you know it is an optional program. It's not required by the federal government, but with the budget shortfall that we have, we have had to look at everything. With that, I'll return the rest of my time back to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of the Kruse amendment. Senator Maxwell, followed by Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. This is exactly the dilemma that I talked about yesterday. I would love to vote for this amendment. I would love to have voted for Senator Chambers' amendments this morning. And, by the way, Senator Kruse and Senator Chambers, I'm not chastising either of you. You voted for my proposal yesterday. But my point is this. My response to social service advocates is going to be, you better start talking to state senators about bringing the growth of state aid under control so that we have room in the budget to do