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LB 709

can tell, there are a number of cosponsors. The bill in its green form has been revised and replaced with the committee amendments. And I will direct my comments to that area. The question that I seem to receive a lot is, why are we doing this at this time? I guess the simple answer is, is that we probably wouldn't have to. We wouldn't have to address the issue today. We wouldn't have to address the issue four years from now. We probably won't have to address the issue seven years from now. But as you'll see in some of the handouts, eight years from now, we have a major problem. And I think we owe it to the citizens of the state of Nebraska to address this issue in a proactive manner. And so that's why we have LB 709 before you. That's why I've introduced the legislation. My intent is for it to benefit Nebraskans and to benefit all Nebraskans, both those who are currently dependent upon the system for whatever benefit, and those who are in some other capacity, whether they're financing it or providing those types of benefits. The bill is before you also in a response. We've had a number of discussions the last three years. The Appropriations Committee has gone through very difficult times in determining what our policy should be, what our priorities should be for funding. The Revenue Committee at the same time has also had to be a part of those discussions. And we've continually debated back and forth on, what should our goals be? What should our systems look like? And overall, what should the government of the state of Nebraska look like? You are having distributed to you two packets. The first packet has "Nebraska Medicaid Program" on the front of it. This packet was compiled out of a presentation given to the Department of...or, the Committee on Health and Human Services on February 9. And I will briefly go through that with you. The first couple pages of the handout deal with the definitions of the Medicaid program. And I will try to track the pages in this packet to the committee amendment, AM0772. The second page of the packet has "Medicaid Services" across the head...across the mast there, and it deals with mandatory and optional services. As you follow along with the committee amendment, you begin to read through some of the findings as far as where the Medicaid system has gone, some of the decisions that the Legislature had to make, and then ultimately what we should be doing in the future as far as reforming our system, and what that should look like.