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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 709

forward with this process. As you continue on through this process, it outlines...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR ERDMAN: ...how this will work. We will have monthly progress reports. It's my intent that they will be made public as this goes on. And Senator Beutler and I have worked to ensure that that is the case. And there will be amendments to that effect. Again, this needs to be an open, public process. The goal of this is not to create another study to sit on a shelf, but rather to look at possible opportunities with the experience that we currently have in the Legislature to draw on that expertise and to fit that into a proposal that at the appropriate time and at the necessary opportunity that we have those options available to us, and whether it's us, whether it's others that are part of this Legislature, that we have done our duty. This is a monumental undertaking. I have no illusions of that. But I believe that we are up to the task, and I look forward to the discussion this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. You've heard the opening on LB 709. As stated by the Clerk, there are committee amendments. Senator Jensen, as Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I first want to commend my colleagues on the Health and Human Services Committee. This is one of the most difficult bills that we wrestled with as we worked through the committee. And I can understand that. And I can understand, certainly, some discussion on the floor as we move through this bill. And I thank my committee for their involvement and their interest in this very important issue. And the vote coming out of the committee reflects, I'm sure, the same view that perhaps the Legislature has. Probably most of you understand the importance of something...about doing something about Medicaid in order to protect the program for future generations. And so it is with that that we worked very hard and long on this particular subject before bringing that to the committee...or,