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unsustainable, whether it is. The reality is, is that we need to be looking at the system to provide those alternatives and to ensure success for the citizens of Nebraska. And if we go through this process, it is important for us to clarify the intent of the Legislature as we see it. It's also important for us to keep our eyes on the target. And the target is that we look at the citizens in our state who need our help, we look at the individuals who are disabled, who are dependent upon the state for certain services, and we recognize that we are going to need to provide services in that area. We look at the long-term care. And if you look at the information handed out by the department...or, excuse me, by the Chairman of the committee, it talks about, there will be a 52.5 percent increase in the population of Nebraskans which are 85 and older between the years 2005 and 2030. That grows that portion of the budget. So I think Senator Cunningham is spot-on, that we have to look at these proactive ideas. And yes, we're going to need help. We're going to need cooperation from our friends in Congress. But I agree with Senator Beutler's approach here, that this needs to be a balanced proposal, both in the intent, and later you'll find in the amendment that I'm offering, to ensure representation in this process, and ultimately we will have a process in which people can have a say, they can have a part of of this, and ultimately they can help us direct the decisions that we'll have to make, whether it's those of us currently here, or those of us as a Legislature to follow. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Byars, your light is next.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Thank you colleagues. I hope that those of you who haven't had a vested interest in this area are taking note of some of the statistics that are being given to you. I don't think there's anyone on this floor that would more like to see a fair Medicaid plan designed for the state of Nebraska than me. I don't think you start in building a plan like that with the premise that it's going to cost less money. I commend Senator Erdman. I think it took a tremendous amount of will and, I think, creativity on his part to bring this type of legislation. And certainly, I've