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council, the advisory council having the ability to review the final plan that would be submitted. That recommendation, or that review and recommendation would be made and submitted to the Governor and the Legislature on or before December 14, 2005. Those are the...that's what the amendment does. I believe it's agreed to by those who we've been working with, both Senator Byars and Senator Beutler, based on their comments on General File, and also their comments between then. I would encourage your adoption of AM1249. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. You've heard the opening on AM1249, offered by Senator Erdman to LB 709. Open for discussion on that motion. Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. I think the language in the amendment to the E & R amendments is reasonable. I think it gives the opportunity and very clearly states to the committee as they study, whether whatever we want to do to take another look at Medicaid and how we want to change it, leave it the same, or enhance it, that we clearly state that it is the intention of this Legislature to ask the committee to make certain that the needs of those people who are low-income, who are elderly, who are disabled, that they're taken into consideration, and the needs that they have are met by whatever proposal is brought back to this Legislature. And I'm confident that that's the direction we're giving the committee, and obviously we'll have the opportunity, with the changes in the bill out of the...as the committee amendments were brought forward, this Legislature will have an opportunity to look at it once again in our next legislative session. But at this point, as the bill is being proposed to be amended by the Erdman amendment to the E & R amendments, I am in support of that language and feel this adequately protects both those receivers of services and those providers of services, and enables us to look at how we use the resources of the state of Nebraska. I would yield the balance of my time to Senator Erdman, if he would like to have it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Erdman, did you wish to use some of Senator Byars' time?