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LB 312

assets. I think both are part of this discussion and part of what we have to do as Americans and as Nebraskans to try to compete in what Thomas Friedman talks about as a flat world, a world where we have to compete with everybody and fight for our share of it. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR JANSSEN PRESIDING

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you. Senator Howard, your light is on next.

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I want to thank Senator Landis and Senator Connealy for taking the time to explain questions to me that I had about this incentive bill. I do continue to have concerns regarding health coverage for those people that are employed by these businesses. For a mother that would be in the workplace would be making the lowest wage suggested here, slightly over \$18,000 a year, and would have possibly two children, I believe that individual would be eligible to apply for those children for the CHIP's program for medical coverage through Medicaid. And when it becomes a system of Nebraska providing Medicaid coverage, medical coverage, for employees of business, it appears to me that really it is a double incentive. We're granting tax incentives and, on top of that, we're providing medical coverage. So, while I understand the intent of the bill and while I feel that it's well constructed and certainly necessary, I challenge all of us to raise the bar, to look at this issue, to hold employers accountable for providing quality, affordable healthcare for their employees. And this is something that I'm going to be studying. This is something I'm going to be learning more about, and I'll continue to voice my concern on this and I hope I can rouse other folks to share this. And having said that, I'll return the remainder of my time to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Howard. Is Senator Brown...Senator Brown? I don't see Senator Brown. Senator Mines, your light is next.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. President, colleagues. I had a