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LB 312

other plans in the area, and spouses are more likely to get a healthcare plan from another employer, are we tying these employers to something that may or may not be reasonable? And I'm going to do a little more research. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Mines. Further discussion on the Beutler amendment? Senator Beutler, there are no further lights on. You're recognized to close on AM1622.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, we really need to do something about healthcare plans. And there's no better place to start than in situations where we in fact are providing taxpayer money to corporations. In that instance, we should at least be sure that the employees of the corporation are not going to be a burden on the state, especially now you've allowed the 60 percent wage level. I mean, we're creating jobs out there that are, on average, 60 percent of the wage level. And that's going to be financed. That means a lot of those jobs are way below 60 percent of wage levels. And we ought not to be creating a situation where we are encouraging business to come in, who then drop upon our Medicaid system and our healthcare system individuals, children, and women, adults of all types, who in a moment of crisis are not going to be covered by healthcare insurance. There was a recent article just recently in the Journal-Star, you may have seen it, a big, long survey done in Nebraska, an excellent survey, indicating that almost two-thirds of Nebraskans who are uninsured are working or are children of parents who work. Sixty-five percent of those without private insurance say they can't afford it. And 27 percent of working Nebraskans said they couldn't afford employer-sponsored insurance. So this article, which I'll reproduce for you, has a great deal of very valuable information on healthcare and the lack of healthcare insurance in Nebraska. It seems to me that we ought to, as a minimum, be requiring these companies to provide healthcare insurance. And unfortunately, as these things go through our process, there doesn't seem to be any organized effort to really look at the wage structure, or to really look at the healthcare benefits. And what happens is, without that effort, attempts on the floor are rejected on items where we really should be a lot more