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LB 312

Careful and a lot more demanding than what is in this bill right now. This amendment is not very demanding. It says, if you already have a healthcare policy that's similar to the state employees' policy, then you're not even required to do anything in addition as a requirement of this amendment. You're fine. You're doing what we would like to see everybody do. If, on the other hand, you have no healthcare benefits, then this amendment would require you to pay into a fund, which we would eventually design to assist with our healthcare programs. Medicaid could be designed in a whole number of ways. But it requires that every employer, who doesn't have healthcare benefits and is using...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...the Nebraska Advantage Act, pay in 6 percent of their total wages. Six percent of their total wages is way below what it would cost to have a reasonable healthcare plan, in my opinion, and it's below what most large companies in fact have. But it would at least require everybody to pay some amount with respect to healthcare. If you're somewhere in between and you're paying some benefits, but not 6 percent of your total wages, then you would pay the difference between 6 percent of your total wages and whatever it is you are paying, so that you, too, and everybody would contribute, at least to the extent of 6 percent of total wages.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's what the amend... (microphone malfunction).

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the closing on AM1622 to LB 312. The question before the body is, shall that amendment be adopted? All in favor vote aye; opposed vote nay. Voting on adoption of the Beutler amendment to LB 312, AM1622. Have you all voted on the Beutler amendment who care to? Senator Beutler, what purpose do you...?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, I'd ask for a call of the house and a roll call vote.