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LB 312

wages, without the accompanying health insurance plan, a family's assets is wiped out with one trip to the emergency room. And we need to do something here. This is a measured approach. It entirely incentivizes. It doesn't mandate anything. I think it's important as a public policy perspective that we have something in this bill to incentivize the private sector to offer health insurance benefits to their employees. Thank you, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Synowiecki. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of the Synowiecki amendment. Senator Thompson, followed by Senator Landis.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I appreciate Senator Synowiecki bringing this amendment. When I first started looking at this issue several years ago, Nebraska had one of the very first business incentive laws. And because it was an older law, it didn't include the issue of health insurance for employees. I looked at other states, and bills that came later in other states did have that inclusion. And so one of the reasons we've never had it, I believe, is because our law was an early law, and it didn't get into some of the broader issues of what you want in terms of quality jobs coming into your state. It was done in response to some specific companies leaving the state. And as a result, we didn't update it for quite a while. And this is really the first time we've actually gotten to a point where the business community was willing to allow the bill on the floor and allow it to be opened up and revised. And in doing so, of course, they want added incentives, which we do need as a state to be competitive. This, to me, is basic policy. We can't afford to be finding ways in our budget to insure people who are uninsured, or take care of their healthcare uninsured. We mentioned the issue of Medicaid. That's just one place. We also provide funding for health centers, because of the huge number of uninsured that we now have in this state. And we can't allow that to go on without policy that is in place, as Senator Synowiecki stated. So clearly, this is our opportunity to encourage the business community, not costing any more money, not the same bills that have been introduced in recent years that would mandate it, but to provide what I think is fairly