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policy benefits. In addition, Medicaid will not recover protected assets from the person's estate once the policyholder dies. Indiana's plan allows for two options. Policyholders can have total asset protection if an individual purchases an Indiana partnership policy with coverage that equals or exceeds the state-set dollar amount. Another option is dollar for dollar asset protection. Individuals who purchase an Indiana partnership policy with initial coverage of less than the state-set dollar amount for that year receive dollar for dollar asset protection. They earn \$1 of protection for every \$1 of benefits paid by the policy. The federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 recognized the states that were operating partnership programs; however, the act required that states obtaining a Medicaid state plan amendment after May 14, 1993, could proceed with partnership programs but they must recover from the estates of all persons receiving services under Medicaid, thereby resulting in the asset protection component of the plan be in effect only while the insured is alive. The states with partnership plans have experienced significant savings to taxpayers and have seen very few partnership purchases, less than 100 actually, qualify for Medicaid. In Indiana, sales were up 316 percent for long-term care insurance policies that enable residents to protect their savings. We're all aware that funding for Medicaid is consuming a larger portion of our budget every year. I believe we must find and change the public's mind-set regarding Medicaid, stressing that it is a program for those who are truly in need rather than the general belief that Medicaid should pay for any long-term care expenses. We must get the public to take control of their later years, thereby reducing the reliance on Medicaid to fund nursing home services and home or community-based care. Rather than sheltering their assets, we must provide incentives to encourage the purchase of long-term care insurance. If a partnership program were to be created in Nebraska, people who purchase a state recommended long-term care policy would no longer have to worry about losing their assets, the assets they have worked their entire life to obtain. They would be able to preserve their assets for their use during their lifetime and for their heirs later. A draft report on Medicaid reform by the National Governor's Association was recently circulated. In that draft document, they listed two policies that could help slow the