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FLOOR DEBATE

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LR 9

growth of elderly enrollment in Medicaid. One was tax credits and deductions for long-term care insurance. The other was long-term care partnerships. The draft states federal law prohibits the expansion of these partnerships beyond those 4 states, but 17 states have passed enabling legislation allowing them to begin such a program should the federal prohibition be repealed, and several others are currently exploring that option. While long-term care partnerships do not promise a silver bullet for Medicaid's long-term care crisis, they can be a key part of the solution and, thereby, all...therefore, all states should be allowed to participate. Additionally, NCSL task force on Medicaid adopted a resolution last December. Within the resolution, it talks about the long-term care partnership program, stating the renewed interest in reinstating the long-term care partnership program is exciting and NCSL believes that the enactment of legislation to reinstate this program would be an important first step towards reform. NCSL urges Congress to repeal the provision in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, which restricts the ability of states to develop programs that provide limited asset protection within the Medicaid program to individuals who purchase long-term care insurance. In summary, LR 9 would memorialize Congress to remove the May 14, 1993, restriction on asset recovery on long-term care policies. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Cunningham. Open for discussion. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, I'd like to ask Senator Cunningham a question or two.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Cunningham, how many of your colleagues do you think were paying attention to what you were reading?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Probably one.