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hides. It goes into dormancy. Then, without warning, there is the ambush, there is the bushwhacking, and if a person has not been diagnosed, is not being treated, there can be an onslaught from which that person will not recover because the person will not know what is happening and what the outcome can be. So whatever questions you may have of me, to the extent that I can provide you a rational answer, I will do so. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, your light was on from the last event. Would you...thank you. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Jensen had brought a bill to our Appropriations Committee, and made a very compelling case to our committee, and it was involving the Ryan White AIDS fund. And there was naturally a certain reluctance to go as much as what Senator Chambers is talking about now. But upon mature reflection, I and the other members of the committee that I've talked to have evaluated this situation, and here's the way it looks to us. We have people who are on the waiting list. Now, why are they on the waiting list? Why...the federal government hasn't substantially dropped the amount of money that they're putting into this program. The fact is that due to the treatment that's available to these people with HIV or AIDS, they are able to extend the life of these people, and so there are more people in the program, which has utilized more of the funds that are available. It costs a substantial amount of money for the drugs, and the drug companies, Senator Jensen advises, give a real break to us on the amount of cost for that drug. Actually, the drug would be considerably more, but they have given us a substantial discount. We had people that testified before us. And as you realize it, we're talking about the ability that we have to extend life, to take people who have an illness but who can be perpetuated in their life with a real ordinary lifestyle. They are able to maintain their jobs. They are able to be productive people. And let's just look at it from a very, very practical, long-term standpoint. If we do not provide adequately for these people, as we are now, they will become basically an overhead to us. And they don't want to do that.