

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 3, 2006

LB 1248

SENATOR JENSEN: That is accurate and it's along with this balance of powers that we all operate under.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Now with regard to all of those things that are protected by statute currently, what does this bill do in terms of allowing the executive branch, any part of it, to essentially make changes, essentially say statutes no longer protect these areas and you can go ahead and make whatever changes you want to make under the guidelines and procedural safeguards that are in the bill? I mean I guess my question is, does this bill allow the department to ignore...I don't mean ignore because it wouldn't be ignoring if you gave them authority, but does it authorize them to disregard existing statute and reconstruct this system in accordance with their medical plan?

SENATOR JENSEN: No. The existing statutes, and when I introduced the bill there was...it is a complete recodification of the entire Medicaid Medical Assistance Program,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...which is rather extensive. Yes, it does give the department a little more freedom to react. We're not done with the federal government and coming back with Medicaid changes to our state. I'm absolutely sure of that. As a matter of fact, I've talked to two of our senators representing the state of Nebraska in Washington and they have both indicated that to me, that we're not done yet. And so how we react to those, how the state, the department reacts to those I think is very important. And then allowing the department to look at various issues, how do we develop more community home and community-based services for the elderly and for those that need services? Can we provide those services that are in a home setting, in other words,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...rather than in an institutional setting? Time did you say?