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LB 1248

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Yes. Thank you, Senator Beutler. That is a concern that I had that it could be, you know, more expensive to the General Fund of the state of Nebraska if changes weren't made. And I'm really undecided as to whether we shall change it to "may" because of, you know, the long-term effect of it. I think we can come to the end result the same either way, but I just had that as a concern, and I want to thank Senator Beutler for his comments. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, you may continue.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Jensen, I'd like to pick up the conversation again if I could.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Jensen, would you yield?

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And please don't interpret this as, what's the word I want, bugging you or whatever, but I'm really trying to get clear in my mind what the authority is under this bill to change what current statute protects. And could you elaborate on that just a little bit more? You were talking about changes from the federal government coming down. And we talked a little bit earlier about, well, whatever is in the exec branch domain now, whatever they have authority to do now of course they could manipulate in response to a federal cutback. But what is protected by statute now that will not be protected by statute if we adopt your committee amendment?

SENATOR JENSEN: Well, I think by LB 1248 that we are giving better guidelines to the department than we ever have before. We are...have introduced again into the bill findings, some recommendations that we didn't have before. And so I think the department has better direction from the Legislature as to how that they feel that the Medicaid and medical assistance should proceed here in this state. Probably one of the greatest areas that I see is in the long-term care. The bill that was passed earlier today onto Final Reading, Senator Cunningham's amendment that will be coming on this bill, and then how we address those home- and community-based services I think will make a