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LB 1248

SENATOR BEUTLER: Do you think all employers should provide healthcare, sir, coverage?

SENATOR JENSEN: No, no, no, no. I think employers, we need to encourage them to provide insurance for their employees, and then those employees that have insurance available, I think they need to take advantage of that insurance also. Those are the areas that are outside that I think can...the best thing that we can do is to, any way that we can, reduce the number of people that go on Medicaid in the first place through long-term care. If we could delay everyone's entrance into a nursing home one year, the dollars would be just substantial to the state. I think we can do that. I think we can provide in-home services. We can provide visiting nurses much cheaper than you can in nursing home or assisted living. Those are all issues that I think we can look at, and by the passage of this bill, it allows the department to bring on some consultants that we will begin to look at all of these issues. One by one, it's not enough. I don't want to cut out the aged. I'm getting pretty close to that period in life myself. (Laugh)

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, we'll have large additional numbers of the aged in short order here.

SENATOR JENSEN: Well, and, you know, we have the same thing, that the aged make up 30 percent of the eligibles and take up 70 percent of the costs. So if we can affect that, a small number of those aged, which I think we can through long-term care, I think we're going to get some savings. Seventy percent of the kids or seventy percent of the eligibles are kids and their mothers, but only take up thirty percent. Well, any time I'm looking at construction of a home or anything else and prices get out of line, I look at the big ticket items. Those are big ticket items. Can we provide that in-home care? Can we provide that care that is less expensive and, to tell you the truth, 85 percent of the people in nursing homes, they don't want to be there anyway. They want to go home. My mother-in-law, two weeks before she died, she said, I want to go home.