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going to make the decisions that we were elected to make. That's what this amendment does.

SENATOR BAKER: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And I'm going to keep us on it one way or the other. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Byars, followed by Senator Don Pederson, Senator Mines, and others.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. President. I believe in reform. I believe in looking at what we're doing as a state, what we're doing as a nation; needs to be carefully examined and decisions made as to how we go forward. Now I think I probably made remarks when we looked at the original version of this bill, I think it was LB 709, and something that has stuck with me and I think I've espoused this to our Health Committee time and again, Senator Jensen and I have had conversation after conversation relative to this, and that's the fact that when we look at Medicaid reform, we look at healthcare reform, we have to do it in the context of what are the needs of the people that we need to serve, and how is it that our constituents react to us having the need to serve these individuals? I think my constituents have overwhelmingly told me over a period of time that they're willing to find the resources and they're willing to spend them if they're spent appropriately on people that have needs. They've never asked me to make a choice between one set of individuals to another, but they've said, Senator, if they have need we trust you to make that decision. I didn't ever think that I would come to this body and say what I'm about to say, but I had a conversation, a group of about three or four people in Washington a few months ago, with a gentleman who is a former member, a leader, in Congress who probably left in less than full approval, but left more in disgrace than he did in people who had adoration for him, but a person by the name of Representative Newt Gingrich. Representative Gingrich told me something that I had never thought I would do, and I never ever thought I would hear from him, but he said, Senator, we have to accept the fact that we need a national healthcare plan that addresses the health needs of every single person in the United