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pay. Let's look at the real circumstances. Let's look at what happens in private insurance and how the employers, the employees, and the state and the federal government can work together...

SENATOR BAKER: Time.

SENATOR BYARS: ...to solve this problem. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Senator Jensen, you referred a little earlier to the fact that you may be getting older. I think if you talk to a 17-year-old, you've gotten there. I know I have. But anyway, let me go back to the...to what we did on our task force. Why were we looking into this? We weren't looking into this to see who should get services, providing that they would get services before somebody else got services. We were looking at the total picture of where we are dollarwise as far as the Medicaid is concerned. And in that light, as I said earlier, we realized where the money could be saved, and part of the money could be saved and it's something that the people would want to have saved in this respect, and that is we've been putting people into nursing homes when they should not have been put in nursing homes. We need a better job of assessing people and determining and making available to them opportunities to stay in their own homes. It will save us a tremendous amount of money and they will be happier. The problem is, when you start putting people into a nursing home, then they become, unfortunately, dependent upon nursing homes. They don't want to get out of the nursing home then because they've had the care. They say, okay, this is okay now; I was worried about it. But they would really prefer, generally, to stay in their own homes. Our task force saw a number of opportunities for us to cut down on some of the costs of Medicaid, and I'd like to discuss a few of those with Senator Jensen, if you will, please, Senator Jensen.

SENATOR BAKER: Senator Jensen.