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management for persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities; personal care services, very large number that we pay for personal care services; durable medical equipment; medical transportation; vision-related services; speech therapy; physical and occupational therapy; chiropractic services; podiatry services; optometric services; and hospice services. Those are the 17 optional services that Nebraska currently participates in.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Can you give us just a brief description of how that compares to other states? I mean, do most states have no optional services? Are they all over the board, having a few of them, and are we at the top of the list in having...in terms of having more of them? Or where...what's...give us a kind of general picture.

SENATOR JENSEN: All states have optional services. I don't know of any state that isn't providing prescription drugs. There's another issue that I think there are dollars that we can save by a better program. I'd like to see Nebraska...I'm not going to...I won't be here, but I'd like to see Nebraska, you know, in a pool to buy prescription drugs--I think we could save some dollars; we can't do it on our own--a pool with other states. Seventeen is probably at the uppermost of what is provided throughout the other states. Many of them might have 14-15.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Now how do you react to this? Senator Chambers is talking about priorities. Presumably, when the federal government set up this system they made requirements for those things that some group of experts must have considered the most important, and they made optional those things that were considered less important. I mean, is that a fair assumption?

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: Well, the optional services were adopted primarily by the state. We, through...since 1965, have added services and we've added that by lobbyists or people that were