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FLOOR DEBATE

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Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on the committee amendments?  
Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: (Microphone malfunction) a question, if I may. You indicated that the committee amendments incorporate the idea of presumptive...presumptive eligibility? Could you...could you explain how the amendment incorporates that; what that concept is and how the amendment incorporates that concept? And let me...let me tell you one area of my concern with this bill and, as I think all people would, this is...this is a great bill and something we want to do and help people with, but I want to...I want to get a few areas straight in my mind as we go to Select File. One of the things that I have been told about this program is that it all begins with the screening that we've put in place and, because the expense of screening is not all that great in and of itself, the common practice has been to...and I'm not going to use the right phraseology here, I'm afraid, but has been a kind of soft eligibility screening in the sense that the patient appears at the doctor's, the doctor says you can get this screening; he mentions that if your guideline is...if you're over...if you're under 225 percent above poverty this is free; are you...are you in that category; and if the answer is yes, that's kind of the end of it. How does that process...does that process relate to what you're calling presumptive screening, and is...or is that something completely different? Let me ask that, to begin with.

SENATOR JENSEN: Oh, okay. First of all, the presumptive eligibility, we also have this in our...our Kids Connection, in that anybody that goes in, rather than go through the entire process of getting all the information as to their financial...if they are financially eligible, when you go in they are presuming that you are and they will take care of you at that time. Then, when time permits, they might look at the other, but they will not restrict treatment until that happens. And I would be glad to turn...or ask Senator Pederson if he wants to comment further on that.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Thank you,