

you can see, it will not be unbelievably expensive. Maybe ten years from now, when many, many different people are involved in the program, if that happens, it might be costly, but we don't know at this point. Right now we are estimating and guesstimating, but we feel that it is a very workable program without too great a cost, and certainly the cost is not anywhere near the benefit that will be provided to the people in this state. The actual different benefit levels, deductibles, co-insurance, and all the different specifics on the policies are going to be handled administratively. There is a board that has been established through this act, and the Department of Insurance will be handling the questions about exactly what the coverage is going to be. Why that is done, instead of putting the coverage in the statute, is that these people are going to be experts. They are going to know exactly what is happening. We are not going to be in a situation where we are going to get too extravagant in those benefits so that we can't cover the cost. We are going to be very cautious on this proposal. That is why we've set up that system. With that, I'd urge your support for the bill. It is one we've worked hard and long on and believe very strongly about. I appreciate Senator Chizek's co-sponsorship, and Senator DeCamp. Many other people have helped as well. With that, I'd ask your support for LB 391, the Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool Act.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Would Senator Wesely yield to a question, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely is on hand.

SENATOR WESELY: Sure.

SENATOR BARRETT: First of all, I commend you, Senator Wesely, for getting into an area which I think has been sadly neglected for too many years. Just for the record, a couple of questions. Have you any idea how many people we are talking about that may have a handicap of this kind?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Senator Barrett, on the last page of the handout we've done some estimates from other states. It shows population of these states and then the number of people participating. We really think that we're talking