

there, but a nursing home can go through your life savings and then right now just say, okay, sucker, we've got all your money, out you go. And the poor elderly person is out and as any specialist in gerontology will tell you, to move them from a residence that has become their home to them can be a very traumatic thing and that's what happened in Senator Withem's district and that's what happens sometimes in other districts. So I think as long as you have the understanding this bill will tell the nursing homes, look, when you take a patient, that's fine. And when you've gone through 50,000 or 60 or 40 or 30 or whatever, and I'm sure this bill of Senator Withem is probably going to cause the nursing homes to ask for a financial statement before they take your parents in or your grandparents or your paraplegic son that was injured in an automobile accident. They may very well want to know how much money have you got before they decide to take you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR HIGGINS: And those nursing homes will have the privilege of saying, no, you'd only be here two years and then you'd go through what you've got so we won't take you. They will still have the opportunity not to take Medicaid patients, but those nursing homes that are now taking Medicaid would still be taking them and the other nursing homes that don't take Medicaid patients now, they won't have to under this bill unless they agree to take the person in the first place. So I think they'll look at it pretty strongly and they'll say, this guy hasn't got a million dollars.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time.

SENATOR HIGGINS: So I will support the bill on that basis. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Labeledz, please.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, rise in support of LB 782 because I agree wholeheartedly with what Senator Higgins has just said. I also have a sister-in-law that I took into the nursing home about a year and a half, two years ago, and at that time she had, I think, about 30,000 in the bank. That money is just about gone and she will have to go on to Medicaid because she is paying \$1,500