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(Neb.)-Nebraska Medicaid Backers Will Add Safeguards To Bill

By: Dennis and Kathi Brown Posted at: 04/14/2013 07:33 AM

By GRANT SCHULTE

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Nebraska (AP) - Supporters of a proposal to expand Medicaid in Nebraska say they're willing to include safeguards in the bill that could help the state control its costs.

Senator Jeremy Nordquist of Omaha told The Associated Press that lawmakers plan to float the idea Tuesday when they return to the Capitol for a debate on Medicaid expansion.

One idea backed by Nordquist and others would trigger a mandatory review if costs increased unexpectedly, or if the federal government fails to fund it as promised.

Critics of the bill haven't yet seen the proposal. But Senator Bill Kintner of Papillion says states that try to withdraw from Medicaid in the future would face heavy political pressure.

The expansion is an optional part of the federal health care law.

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The bill is LB577