

May 4, 1993

LB 782, 798

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Good afternoon and welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. Roll call.

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Do you have items for the record?

CLERK: Mr. President, just one. Senator Lindsay has amendments to be printed to LB 782. That's all that I have. (See page 1936 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: We will now proceed on the agenda to Item 7, and special order Medicaid bills, and LB 798.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 798 was a bill originally introduced by Senators Wesely and a number of his colleagues. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 21, referred to the Health Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I have no amendments pending at this time, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. First, I'd like to thank the Speaker for special ordering this package of bills to address the Medicaid issue. Probably no issue has dominated the public, at least view of the Legislature as Medicaid has over the course of the last year. Since the Legislature established a special task force on Medicaid, which began meeting at the end of the session last year, countless meetings, countless hearings, countless hours of staff and legislative time have gone into addressing the problems we face with the Medicaid issue. And this package of bills, along with some additional bills coming from Revenue Committee, are our best attempt at this time to move forward in trying to solve some of the Medicaid issues we've identified. I want to thank the Speaker for scheduling the bills. I want to also thank the Medicaid Task Force for the work that was done over the course of the interim addressing this problem. The task force met throughout the interim, as we all know, many different times in trying to find some solutions to the problem. We did, as a result of those meetings and effort, put together a package of 25 bills that, in one fashion or another, helped to address either the need to reduce costs of Medicaid or raise revenues to help pay for Medicaid. And coming