

those was the drug limitation cut that was proposed by the department which the committee said should not be pursued. There was an amendment by Senator Moore and the Appropriations Committee to change from denying that cut to supporting that cut. That failed and I guess where we're at today is again on the committee amendments. We have listed out those services we support in terms of cuts. We have listed out those proposed cuts that we do not support and we have set up a process for proposed cuts in Medicaid services to be presented to the Legislature every December 1 to be implemented the following July so that the Legislature will have a chance to review that process. That's really, I think, where we're at on LB 804 and I think we're ready for other amendments, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Before we proceed to the next item, I would like to introduce some guests of Senator Schmitt. We have 22 seniors from the North Loup Scotia High School and their teachers, and they're in the south balcony. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being here. Mr. Clerk, amendment to the committee amendments.

CLERK: Mr. President, a series of amendments to the committee amendments. Senator Wesely, as primary introducer, has priority. Senator, AM1898. (See pages 1977-78 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. This amendment is drafted in response to the discussion yesterday about the cut in drugs and limiting to eight prescriptions per month. And I apologize, I just got the amendment, I'm asking it to be drafted right now, excuse me, copied right now and sent around. But we discussed on the floor yesterday the prospect of through a negotiation process of the Department of Social Services working with the pharmacists of the state and the pharmaceutical companies to try to find a way to have a savings of 1.8 million a year. I have had different people approach me that are involved in drug purchases and...that came out wrong, in pharmacy issues and pharmaceutical distribution, and they have indicated to me that the crazy world of drug pricing tells us that there may be ways to find additional savings and that we can, in fact, find additional savings in the system. I want to find a savings everywhere we can and, in my view, rather than putting a