

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 9, 2001

LB 270

medicine, the skill in driving a sports car, the skill in playing a basketball game, depends upon the training of the person, not necessarily the history of the profession. When someone is a brand new basketball player they're probably not very good. When somebody is a brand new doctor, yes, they have had the training, they've had the schooling and, because of their residency programs, they have had the experience. The same is true of acupuncturists. They have had the training, they have had the schooling and, because of their clinical practice, they have had the experience. All we're doing is saying to the people of Nebraska, because...we're saying to the people of Nebraska you no longer will have to go to another state to receive the treatments that you're already receiving, and for anyone new who is not getting cured of whatever their illness is from a medical doctor or from a chiropractor, they will not have to go to another state to receive their treatments. We're not saying that everyone has to have acupuncture treatments. We're saying you have a choice of which professional you will go to, to receive treatments, whether that be medical doctor, whether that be a bone bender, or a chiropractor, or whether that be an acupuncturist. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: (Doctor of the day and visitors introduced.) Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Mr. Speaker, members, I rise in opposition to Senator Chambers' amendment. If you look in the language of LB 270, they do require that the acupuncturist does not give a diagnosis, that you must go to a physician, so the fear of having acupuncturist's services suppressing an underlying disease that may be kept hidden to the detriment of the patient I think is somewhat minimized, because they must make that disclosure. You..the disclosure is that you do...that the individual is informed that the acupuncturist is not a physician. They cannot give medical diagnoses, so the individual does have to go elsewhere for that diagnoses. The acupuncturist is simply an option that someone has in response to the diagnosis and an option for the individual regarding the course of treatment. That's simply what this does. I understand that it does give the state approval, because of its