

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

April 19, 2002 LB 692, 1033

automobile accident, what they need more than anything else, they need hands. They need hands to hold IV bottles. They need hands to help aid and assist in emergency operations. They need hands to move the patient from the gurney to the table and then up to a room. And so I think to deny that would be wrong. And I think this is an excellent opportunity also for that EMT to sharpen his skills. Remember, they are underneath the supervision of a skilled nurse, an RN, or a doctor, and also they receive training from the hospital itself, so I am not concerned about the care that is going to be given these individuals. Now getting back to the Health Care Cash Fund and, yes, I was very disappointed this year when the Governor saw some dollars laying there and he took those dollars and used them to balance the budget, and of course we're all receiving all kinds of letters on whether we balanced the budget correctly or not but that's another story. I will introduce a bill this next year that will prohibit that because I think that just because dollars are sitting in a fund waiting to be spent someone should not have the ability to just take those out of there. And so, yes, there was \$11 million, \$11,485,000 that was taken from that fund. I think that was wrong. Now whether we should use those dollars, \$8,000, that's really what it would be, the second year hopefully that there would be fees that would pick it up from that time or another, I'm going to leave up to you with the exception that if there are incidents within the next year or so that happen I would hope that there are people out there that can provide that emergency service and that these people can be taken care of. Frankly, I wish that we had a portion within that Cash Fund that we could fund small amounts to get a program up and going. I see nothing wrong with that. I think that's part of the health care that we need for the citizens here in Nebraska. I do not want this Cash Fund tampered with. I don't want it raided, and I think the majority of you do not want that also. Next year we were going to...we're going to open the books again on LB 692 and, again, I'm looking forward to doing that with Appropriations Committee and Health Committee working together to again establish for the next biennium how these dollars will be spent. And I would like at that time that there was the ability for a small amount of dollars that can be used again for health care, health care only. We start using it for buildings, I'm going to jump up and