

March 6, 1979

LB 59

mention to you as well is this state today is presently pumping into the public school systems about 17 million dollars to try to correct learning problems which we generally refer to as handicapped. I submit to you that there are also learning problems that are related to physical defects that have never been detected. As a result, a child may be labeled as a retarded child simply because of a physical defect that causes that retardation or apparent retardation, and as a result, that child may be labeled unfairly. So here again what you are doing is you are attempting to bring about a piece of legislation which is preventive in nature, and not only that, it provides for the welfare of young people. One other aspect of the bill is that the child will be given sixty days to have that physical during the school year. In other words, beginning in approximately September, it runs into November. At that time, if the school is notified that child does not have a physical, then, of course, the child would be taken out of school until they conform to that physical. There is also another aspect to it that if the child because of religious tenets or something of that nature does not believe in this type of thing, then, of course, that would be outside of the purview of this particular law. This is the intent of the bill and I would submit to you that this is good legislation and well needed. Even though some schools today do require physicals, this would mandate that all children of the State of Nebraska prior to entering school would have a physical examination and would show that they are immunized against all the diseases that Senator Maresh had listed at one time and we have added mumps to that to make it almost all-inclusive in terms of communicative diseases. Thank you.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Koch, the Clerk tells me you have amendments other than the committee amendments. Did you wish to speak to those?

SENATOR KOCH: Do you have those up there, Mr. Clerk? Would you read them please? I think I mentioned those in my remarks but go ahead and read them.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Koch moves to amend LB 59 by reinstating the stricken matter in lines 11 through 14 of page 2.

SENATOR KOCH: That has to do with the religious tenets of an individual relative to possibly the use of a physician, particularly, I can think of Christian Scientists and individuals such as this. I move for the adoption of that