

it is all tax dollars and that is why the State Legislature has to take an active role because we are talking about the drain on our tax dollars that are going to reimbursing, over-reimbursing nursing homes and hospitals in this state. In 1975-76, about \$60 million were spent on medicaid reimbursement. The next year it was up to \$63 million. The next year it was up to \$80 million. This is for the current, well, for last year. Now it is up to \$99 million is what we are spending this year for medicaid reimbursement. Next year it is estimated to cost \$120 million in medicaid reimbursement.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have got one minute left.

SENATOR WESELY: And for 1980-81, \$144 million. This is tax dollars that are being taken away in terms of reimbursement, \$144 million. Every year \$20 million more we are spending through tax dollars to reimburse these nursing homes and hospitals and what controls do we have over these expenditures, what checks do we have for unnecessary building and waste and duplication? What ways do we have to keep those health care costs from skyrocketing even farther? We have none essentially or very weak controls. With the passage of the Goodrich amendments, we will have an even worse situation, even less control. I only have about thirty seconds. All I would like to say is remember the editorial support that the different newspapers throughout the state have given in support of a stronger certificate of need bill. The eyes of Nebraska are upon the floor of this Legislature at this time. They are watching to see whether we care or whether we don't care about the rising health care costs. By supporting the consensus amendments supported by a number of Senators, you are going to show the people of Nebraska that we recognize the problem, we are going to take leadership, we are going to see that something is done about that problem. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak and then Senator Landis and then Senator Cullan and then Senator Lamb. Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President, colleagues, I won't take the whole five minutes because a lot of the facts that I have had before me have already been stated. I do kind of want to comment on several arguments, however, Senator Goodrich's argument of the Talmage bill and its chances in Congress. I think that bill is far from being passed and I don't think we should be misled that that threshold is going to be changed by Congress at the stage that particular bill is right now. That might even be compared to a