

April 18, 1979

LB 172

presence? Senator Sieck. Senator Cal Carsten. Senator Chambers, record your presence please.

CLERK: Senator Chambers voting aye. Senator Maresh voting aye. Senator Carsten voting aye.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Okay, that is enough.

SENATOR NICHOL: Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 13 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR NICHOL: Debate has ceased. Senator Schmit, are you the one that closes on this?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, there has been a lot of oratory this afternoon. All of it was I am sure sincere and I want to say again, speaking as one member of the group which was active in the drawing of the consensus amendments, that this represents the point of view of many people. I have just since the debate began reviewed the testimony before the Public Health Committee that contains the testimony of many various individuals who represent for most practical purposes all aspects of health care providers. As I said earlier and has been said on this floor, without exception everyone supports the bill. There were several amendments that were offered. Some of those amendments have been included in the consensus amendments. I think at this time I would have to say that those individuals who have signed these amendments represent about as broad a political spectrum as exists in this Legislature. There are rural and urban. There are liberal and conservative, but basically they represent individuals who are concerned with escalating health care costs and face the possibility of future cost increases with great trepidation. I would suggest that there is no member of this body who has a greater concern for the protection of individual property rights than I do and I do not appreciate being involved in restrictions on the use of individual property anymore than anyone else does. I know that I have stood on this floor time after time and voiced my objection to government intervention in the individual's right to use that property which is theirs as they see fit. However, I would have to say, as has also been expressed on this floor, that when public funds are the main support of much of this personal property that we do have a right and obligation to express our intent that those funds be spent properly and to be spent in the best interest of the individual. I want to call attention to another thing that I think is of vast importance to all of us. When we talk