

saddens me to have to bring up this motion today. It saddens me for a couple of reasons. Number one, I guess most important, I feel that 754 was a most reasonable piece of legislation and it is one that I think that I can say in all honesty, at least from my view point, was not thoroughly and seriously considered by members of the committee. It is one that I hope after I present some testimony today to the members of the body that you can see very clearly that the majority of the members of the Public Health and Welfare Committee acted in what I consider to be a most irresponsible manner. I understand the politics of this Legislature. I have been here long enough to know that I don't have the thirty votes. But there comes a time, at least for this legislator, when something of such overriding concern takes place that I have a moral obligation to bring it before the body and to the citizens of Nebraska. Now what LB 754 would do very simply is that it authorizes the Executive Board to conduct an interim study in the area of the nursing home industry. That is all the bill does, it is a very simple concept. I talk with members of the committee who have expressed concerns about the amount that might be spent on the study, which calls for an outside consultant, I adopted amendments, put forth an amendment which was adopted by the committee which would limit that to \$50,000. I was told by Senator Cullan that \$50,000 was excessive, it was too much money to spend. We just couldn't afford to spend that kind of money to study the nursing home industry. I would suggest, members of the body, that we spend more than \$50,000 a day for some very trivial things. Certainly \$50,000 is a very small amount of money to spend for the care and health of those residents of nursing home industries in Nebraska. Let me explain a little bit about the origin of the bill and I will also explain a little bit about some of the things that were brought to my attention and I will close by giving some more examples. I have been interested in this area for over three years. In the course of three years I have received over fifty letters and phone calls from relatives, from former people who work in nursing homes expressing problems in those areas. In the past many of those claims could not be substantiated. But just before the Legislature convened this year sixteen individuals who had worked at nursing homes, some who still do, came before the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union and wanted to file suit against the nursing home industry because of abuses in the industry. At that time it was suggested to them that they contact my office because I had been interested in this matter for some time. Taking on the nursing home industry is not a popular position to take. You meet with a lot of opposition, from the industry, obviously those people who support this type of legislation or have concerns about it, as often happens with consumers,