

issue. It is one which will not go away. It is one which will be very, very easy to make an error on. And so let me just suggest that you pay close attention to this and that you not necessarily have to buy one package or the other package but that you listen to those amendments one by one and decide then not on the basis of the introducer but on the basis of the person who has offered the content of the amendment and what it will do to health care costs in the State of Nebraska, because the one concern which I think faces most of our constituents every day is the fact that health care costs continue to escalate to the extent that they have almost become prohibitive and the cost of health insurance has now reached the point where it is not just an insurance feature but it is merely a prepayment of cost, and those costs are becoming rapidly out of the reach of many ordinary citizens. And so I wish that we would...I am not admonishing the Legislature, but I am just asking that you listen carefully to what is being discussed here. I know that there are two sides to everyone of these amendments, and how you vote is your own conscience, but certainly don't vote blindly and I am afraid that is what we are going to do if we don't pay attention to these speakers. I will have something more to say about the amendments later on, but at this time I just wish you would listen to those amendments and question both Senator Cullan and Senator Wesely on those amendments if you will because they have each a very definite point of view, contrasting point of view, but certainly they know their subjects better perhaps than anyone of the rest of us on this floor. So I would ask you once again, and I know it is very difficult because we all have a number of other issues that we want to discuss from time to time when we have to visit with our colleagues but I don't think we can hardly overlook the importance of this issue. And so I hope we continue the discussion and the debate but that we show some courtesy both to Senator Cullan and to Senator Wesely who have done a lot of work on this issue, and who are now at odds and that we try to resolve the best of the issue that we can.

PRESIDENT: Any other discussion on LB 378? Senator Wesely, you may close then on your amendments.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I appreciate Senator Schmit's admonition to pay a little more attention to the bill. I don't know if that is going to work or not. I hope you will try and follow some of the issues though. What I am trying to do with these amendments and what I tried to do with the 25 amendments that were up there is make one simple point, that this bill is very complicated, that it is very important,