

in the direction we should take have all been withdrawn. But that is going to again be attempted and I think that all of you who have not been very concerned ought to be concerned and I think when you go to your districts and talk to constituents you get a sense of how they feel about things. I'd ask you to see how they feel about health care costs and what they think ought to be done about it. I do and I find out very quickly that people are very upset and very concerned. From one way or another, through taxes, through insurance premiums and through the out of pocket expenses of nursing homes and hospitals people know one way or another...

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, ...how expensive it is to get health care anymore in this state. I think it is obvious to anybody who has talked to the general public about it that they want to see something done about it. The step we're taking with LB 378 in its present form is not a step forward to address the problem, it is a step backward. Senator Cullan, I think has obviously done an effective job in lining up the votes. Nevertheless, I think it is also clear that this bill is not going to accomplish the competition and the other benefits that have been claimed, in fact it is going to weaken the one process that we've tried to establish to deal with health care costs problems in the State of Nebraska. You've all heard it before. You're tired of hearing it. Obviously it is not going to make an impact at this point but all I'd ask is this. Keep an open mind. Try and read something about the health care issue. We're going to try and get some information to you and when this bill comes up again on Final Reading please, please do not commit yourself absolutely and try to be able to look at the issue in a different perspective the next time because the people of this state are counting on you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I just want to speak also very briefly on LB 378. I've told you several times that I would have some amendments for 378 and Senator Cullan is very anxious to move the bill off Select File. I have told him I would not oppose that move. I do not believe the limited time we have here today that it is possible to adequately discuss the amendments that I have prepared because I have not had a chance to have them printed in the Journal and I have not had a chance to discuss them with you. Some of my colleagues and I have reviewed them. We even find a few disagreements among us. We want to resolve all of those disagreements and then