

print them in the Journal, discuss them with you and I just want to say I disagree a little bit with my friend Senator Wesely. I do believe this body is interested in controlling health care costs. I do believe that if we come to them with an idea that is designed to limit the cost of health care that the majority of the members will look at it. I've pointed out earlier that I do not believe the present system is working as we had hoped it would. I think, in fact, it may guarantee some escalation of costs rather than to limit them. I think we need to recognize that we have a system that is in operation here today which is one of the major costs and one of the major concerns of the people of the State of Nebraska. I believe that this body has a major responsibility to attempt to turn those costs around. I believe it requires the full cooperation of the health care providers, the insurance companies, more properly called the third party payers, the government, state and federal. We are seeing some action at the federal level which is designed to turn this around. I think that we are going to have to accept our responsibility in that area also. I want to say that at this time I can't really, Senator Sam, unless you need the vote, I'm not going to vote to advance the bill but I will not oppose the motion to advance the bill because on Final Reading, and I don't like to offer a major amendment on Final Reading, but out of deference to Senator Cullan because I do not want to block the bill, it is not my intention to block the bill, I will offer the amendments on Final Reading. They can then be adopted and the bill can then be returned for your approval or disapproval. If I do not get the support for those amendments on Final Reading the bill can then be read and passed into law. I think that is much more preferable to any attempt that I might be inclined to just block the bill through maneuvering. I do not agree with that proposal or that idea and I'm not suggesting that anyone else does but I think that at this time the bill, as Senator Cullan has it drafted, has substantial support. Unless we can provide you with some substantive amendments that will do what we want it to do, then I do not see any reason for us to just hold up the bill by what might be called a mechanical means. At this time I am not going to oppose the bill.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I concur with the remarks of Senator Wesely and Senator Schmit with respect to the allowance of this bill to move on to Final Reading and to our awaiting at that time for a package which attempts to deal with health care costs in a reasonable fashion. I thought I would comment for just a couple of minutes about health care costs and the