

very valuable to have a patient know what they are paying for. I think in all cases that when we purchase something we want to know what we are purchasing and how much it costs and what we are getting for our dollar. And we had some cases in the hearing that were pretty astounding. We had some examples of somebody who was charged over \$3,000 for pharmacy care in a hospital and the insurance company got this information and said, my god, they were only in there for a few days, we ought to check this out, which they did, and found it was supposed to be like \$3.89 or something and it came out to some sort of figure that was much, much less than what they had anticipated and instead they were charged \$3,000. I had another individual get a hold of me and they did get an itemized bill from one of the hospitals in Lincoln and it said \$129 for a certain item and they couldn't figure out what the item was. Went back and asked, well, what is this? And they said, well, we will check it out, and they checked it out, and they came back and not only did they explain what they were paying for but they also found out by checking it out that they were being charged \$129 for a \$1.29 expense. So it is clear that there have been some instances where itemized billings will catch some mistakes. They aren't frequent. They are rare, but still in those instances, we want to be sure of those problems. At the same time, the educational value in letting patients know what they are paying for in health care, this is very valuable, I think, benefit to the state in trying to deal with health care costs. So for those different reasons, number one, itemized billings could help to identify some mistakes made in billing and, number two, it should educate those who are cared for in our hospitals as to the actual expenses that they are having to pay for. For those reasons I think this bill ought to be passed and advanced very strongly by this Legislature.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wiitala, did you want to talk further on it? The question before the House then is the advancement of the bill. Senator Schmit, go ahead.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I do not want to delay the advancement of the bill. I have prepared some amendments for 835 and I will print them in the Journal. I have shown them to Senator Wiitala and Senator Wesely. They are somewhat prepared for them and I will have them comment on them on Select File but I am going to print them in the Journal and I would ask you to study them very closely.

SENATOR CLARK: The question before the House is the advancement of the bill. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay.