

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Chronister.

SENATOR CHRONISTER: Mr. Speaker, members, I rise in support of the Cullan amendment for the same reasons as advanced by the previous senators before me, Senator Wesely, Senator Kilgarin and Senator Cullan. I feel that if we make this change, the changes will have too far reaching effects to be really effective and cost effective at this time. I support the Cullan amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, I also am a member of the Public Health and Welfare Committee and I was present when we heard both of those bills. One question that I asked of everyone that testified was given a choice between those two bills, which one would they prefer and the answer came back, the majority of them said, LB 883, which was Senator Cullan's bill which we held along with the other bill. Now Senator Sam will tell you that he and I don't often agree on anything but in this case I have to say I support Senator Cullan's amendment because the majority of the people at that hearing supported the Cullan bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, up until now the changes that have been made by amendments have been somewhat minor. A thousand dollars here, ten thousand there, a hundred thousand somewhere else. But now we are up in big money. We are up in the neighborhood of two million dollars as Senator Warner just told you. The whole thing is based on this alone. Medicare payments in Nebraska are very, very generous. As I remember there are six points of federal that are required. We have something like 23. We have a choice. Everyone complains about payments of Medicare, Medicaid, whichever it is. You have got to think it over because two million dollars on a tight budget is a lot of money. Maybe this isn't the right approach but I think it is a must approach. If we want to study during the summer and come in and weed them out, that is fine. But, I don't think we can stand this two million additional to the budget unless it is cut somewhere else.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Kilgarin, do you want to speak for the second time?

SENATOR KILGARIN: I would just like to respond briefly to Senator Cope's remarks. Yes, it is a high cost item.