

April 13, 1982

LB 378

PRESIDENT: The motion fails. The next motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next motion I have is offered by Senator Higgins. Senator Higgins would move to return LB 378 to Select File for a specific amendment. The amendment is being offered by Senators Higgins, Labeledz, Rumery and Kremer.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, Senators, I am offering this amendment to LB 378 because it is going to minimize unnecessary duplication of services. It will encourage development of appropriate alternative methods of delivering health care. It will promote wherever appropriate a more competitive health care delivery system and it will encourage the provision of high quality health care which is available and accessible to all people of the state and it will maximize the effectiveness of expenditures made for health care. On page 3 of LB 378 you will find these exact words and in my amendments, which was originally LB 768, you will find it under Sections 11 and 12 and throughout the amendments we will be eliminating the nursing homes that are not giving proper delivery right now. So I don't think there will be any question of germaneness since it is taken from the same chapter and we have almost the identical same words in my amendments that are in LB 378. What these amendments will do, Senators, will guarantee protection to the people that are now in nursing homes. Some of you have seen handouts this morning about the sale of nursing homes in Omaha. I know all of you have been lobbied by the Nebraska Health Care Association and the Nebraska Hospital Association and they have been telling you that they simply can't afford these amendments because of profits and yet you have here an article from the Omaha World Herald telling you that a Minneapolis firm has made from 100 to 500% profit on nursing homes and one even made 1850% profit. And then we have nursing homes, sixteen of them in Nebraska, being bought by a Minneapolis firm paying over \$1 million per nursing home, in fact they're paying \$21 million. Now if there is no profit in nursing homes, I don't know why they want to buy sixteen of them and ironically these sixteen, 65% of their patients are on Medicare or Medicaid. Why did they pick them? Because they know when they buy them that the state and the federal government are going to guarantee them a profit. The average nursing home in Nebraska has only 40% Medicare or Medicaid patients. These amendments are going to do away with tying people in wheelchairs. It is going to mandate a penalty for people running nursing homes who choose to thumb their nose at the Department of Health's laws or rules and regulations. The present law, Senators, does not allow nursing homes to be penalized in any way for physically abusing a patient,

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