

187,...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...the other issue that I have pointed out to you here today is just around the corner and we will still be facing the counties, I am sure, after we have addressed this issue because we have to take care of those people somehow and, unfortunately, unfortunately I know in some instances where they absolutely don't even present themselves for medical care because they can't afford it. It is a sad situation. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Before proceeding to Senator Elmer, the Chair is pleased to announce that Senator Smith has a guest under the north balcony, Mr. Harry Milligan from Hastings. Mr. Milligan, would you please stand and be recognized. We are glad you are here. And Senator Scofield has a guest under the north balcony, Mary Lou Strauch from the Panhandle Area Development District. Mary Lou, would you please stand and be recognized by the Legislature. Thank you. Glad to have you with us also. Additional discussion on LB 187, Senator Elmer followed by Senators Moore, Hartnett, and Nelson.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would Senator Lynch yield to a couple of questions?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lynch, would you respond?

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes.

SENATOR ELMER: Senator Lynch, I know that in some areas of the state this instance has occurred. The Highway Patrol discovers, picks up an individual who is driving while intoxicated. They take him before the local magistrate and he is irresponsible, he doesn't have any kin, and they put him in jail. During the process of his court appearances, they discover the man is ill with a very catastrophic illness. The county then has to transfer that individual to an intensive care facility in Lincoln or Omaha or Grand Island or Kearney and the bills run up into the 100, well, could be 50 to 100 thousand dollars. The man has no way to pay, the county is liable. Would this bill address that particular need?

SENATOR LYNCH: With the Haberman amendment, yes, it would.