

Dennis Byars, in the north balcony, we have 9 students and 3 sponsors from Beatrice Public Schools, Academically Able-Difference of Opinion Program. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you. We are glad to have you visiting with us this morning. Further discussion on the bill, Senator Nelson, please. (Gavel.)

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I, too, and seldom Senator Moore and I really are somewhat on the same side, I have some reservations about this bill, and I don't know if the body knows or not, but we have also coming down the pipeline LB 44, which, in essence, that would be, would be the cost, the state would pay the cost of care for patients committed to the State Regional Centers when they have determined to be incompetent and to stand trial. Currently, the county of residence pays that cost of this care. That bill is carrying \$570,000. I, too, am questioning two points on this bill, whether or not the indigent would get any more service than maybe they are now. I can't see that my hospitals, maybe some would refuse them if they knew they would not be compensated. I do somewhat call this property tax relief, and in the discussion in Judiciary Committee on LB 44, that was my question to Senator Conway. This is strictly property tax relief, and I have the same comments as Senator Moore. By the time that my local newspaper gets a hold of it and how horrible we are down here at the Legislature in providing property tax relief, and so on, I don't get one ounce of credit for this. I just get my ears wrapped back a little bit more. So I call this a property tax relief and I don't know how we would be able to toot our horns in the amount of \$12 million, because when we took over the state Medicaid, my local newspaper doesn't know about it or chooses not to even think about that when he says that we are not providing any property tax relief. I wonder if Senator Lynch would be comfortable if an amendment were offered to put a five or six million dollar cap on this bill. It seems to me like that the fiscal note is entirely...is really high because I, too, am like Senator Schmit. When we start taking in this and the hospitals are not being reimbursed, as I said, then we have the next class, which is a little bit too much to not have health care but still don't qualify for any assistance, and we see a lot of young couples in that position. And, again, they are in a bad position, too. So with that, I just wanted the body to know that we also have LB 44 coming down the pipeline, and I do support that.