

us something please.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I guess to save a lot of time, I would like to make a quick announcement. Yesterday my wife and I received a Valentine's present, a baby girl, Alexa Rae. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Good timing. Senator Schellpeper, please.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I think we are looking at this bill a little bit wrong if we look at it as property tax relief. I think it is more of a health issue. It is something that is morally right. If we really want property tax relief this year, it is going to take a sales tax increase, and I think we just need to realize that. We cannot have a property tax decrease for the people back home unless we have a sales tax or some other way to really fund it. But I think this issue this morning is really a health issue. It is something that we need to do. It is something that the people of Nebraska that don't have the resources, they just have to have this here coverage. So I think we are looking at it just a little bit wrong. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Conway, please.

SENATOR CONWAY: Mr. President, I would like to call the question, please.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, but you are the last one, but appreciate it. Senator Lynch, would you like to close on the advancement of the bill?

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President, members, I will do my best. First of all, please remember what this does not do. This does not overlap or duplicate whatever Medicare does, whatever Medicaid does, whatever children's programs do, or whatever county general assistance programs do. It does none of that. What this does is provide some reimbursement to health professionals who are providing care for those people who are falling through the cracks, primarily people from 20 to 60, those not eligible for Medicare, those not sick enough to be on Medicaid. The stiff who has got a job and a couple of kids, is out of work for a long time, needs to be treated, sometimes is afraid to go to the hospital because he knows he doesn't have the money, permit himself and his family to get worse than they