

have historically regulated it as insurance. For that reason the Insurance Department has standards of capitalization to prove that these kinds of companies are solvent. In some locations they have been fly-by-night operations and we've learned, to our dismay, that the companies come in, secure a bunch of policyholders, if you will, and then don't perform the services. Nebraska has a service contract law creating some standards for those kinds of companies before they can do business and standards of financial responsibility once they are up and running. We have a couple of natural gas companies that want to operate some gas appliance repair contracts. Now this is Minnegasco and Peoples and basically they want to be able to hold out to their ratepayers this service contract notion that says, listen, if you've got some gas appliances in your home and they become faulty, we'll come out and do the repairs and we'll just have you pay a service fee for us. Utilities that have a great deal of capital investment in the state are not fly-by-night operations and there is no need to have them prove the financial responsibility standards that other companies of less quality pedigree need to prove up. In fact, our service contract law is rather spotty and there are a series of preexisting exemptions so this has not been a real high wall that has served as a real detriment or obstacle to other companies. The first part of this amendment creates an exception to the service contract law for these natural gas utilities to allow them to do service on home repair items or home appliances that use their form of energy as a way of keeping those appliances in repair and yet costing out those expenses over time to a service contract. That's the first part of the amendment. The second part of the amendment is a series of changes to our comprehensive health insurance program commonly called CHIP and there are four elements to that, but Senator Wesely is here on the floor and rather than for me to go over them, I thought I'd ask Senator Wesely to explain those four provisions briefly to you. I'll ask to suspend the rules and then adopt the amendment. Senator Wesely has the remainder of my time.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, the amendments we're offering, Senator Landis, Senator Hartnett and myself, again, have two parts. The second part deals with the comprehensive health insurance program. There's Senator Chizek. Senator Chizek and I sponsored and passed a bill several years ago and