

service is now covered and the department, as I said, would only like to go to \$50,000. I think \$500,000 is more reasonable and I'm trying to be reasonable on this and certainly \$900,000 is a huge increase. From zero to \$900,000 to me is not a reasonable adjustment. That's basically in throwing it out the window. It goes too far, but I think \$500,000 is something more reasonable and I'd like to ask your help in amending this amendment to be in the form I think we can proceed with. Now, Senator Schellpeper, you talked about everybody has agreed to this and the only person unhappy is Senator Wesely. Well I have a lot of respect for you, Senator Schellpeper, you've worked with me on the Health Committee and I appreciate very much your good work. Senator Schellpeper, this body is not beholden to the lobby or what the providers come back to us and hand to us. I'm glad that they were able to agree on something and I'm glad that they're real happy that they're all together on this issue, but that doesn't mean we have to stand here and take whatever is handed to us. We've got to think for ourselves. We have to think through what is the best course of action for the State of Nebraska and we have to represent more than just the lobby and the providers on this issue. We have to represent the people, the million and a half folks out there that use hospitals and nursing homes and doctors and have to pay for those services, and when you look at that side of it you have a whole different perspective. Certainly out there, those people able to hire representation of reaching an agreement. But within this body, hopefully this body represents more than that, represents more than the lobby, represents more than the interest groups involved with the issue. And so I would hope we'd be state senators and think about what we're trying to do here and what the issues are versus just taking whatever is handed to us and running with it. And I understand the easy road again is to do that. I'm telling you that the hard road is to find a reasonable compromise that balances out the interest involved here and \$50,000 is what is originally in this amendment. To be reasonable I think \$500,000 is a better figure, but certainly \$900,000 as is in the bill currently is far too great a change at this point and so trying to reach that middle ground I think 500,000 is reasonable and I'd ask your support for the amendment to the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Crosby, followed by Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I rise