

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Senator Lynch.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Yes, I've had my questions, at least for the Section 1 and Section 2, answered and explained a little bit more. And I guess I would have no problem with passing this onto Select, but I have no strong feelings.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Lamb, would you care to speak to the motion to bracket? Senator Langford, would you care to speak to it?

SENATOR LANGFORD: Yes, please, Mr. President. I wanted to make one thing quite clear to the body. This is not a MIREF bill, which I voted for, and I really don't care about the bracket, it is the will of the body. But I want to make it clear that the MIREF bill is not for greater Nebraska. And I'll use Buffalo County as an example. We budget \$200,000 a year for indigent care. Of course, I realize that the doctors and the hospitals do indigent care on their own. But our county does not even use \$200,000. So, please don't do us any favor. We would much rather have the additional money for the hospitals, the providers and the county. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Beyer, your light is still on. Thank you. Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. President and members, I don't know for sure what you've worked out, Mr. Speaker, in terms of scheduling and so on. But I think Senator Lynch raises some issues that we could certainly look at, and I would certainly pledge to try to get some numbers for him, although I suspect some of the things he wants to address would go back to a bill that some of us introduced a few years ago to change who gets Medicaid reimbursements and that always goes down in flames. And I don't know that we could even get embroiled in that at this stage of the session. But impression here are the kinds of choices that we need to make in terms of indigent health care versus Medicaid rates, build, I guess, on what Senator Langford was saying. I have visited with my county people and with my hospitals and medical providers out there. Their preference, if it's an either or situation, frankly is the Medicaid reimbursement, partly for the reasons that...the discussion between Senator