

May 19, 1989

LB 279

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Chizek, would you like to close on your amendment to the amendment?

SENATOR CHIZEK: Would just ask for adoption of the amendment to the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Okay, the question is the adoption of the amendment to the Chizek amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on the amendment to the Chizek amendment. (Gavel.) Ladies and gentlemen, since several of you are missing, I would certainly appreciate your cooperation, if you choose to vote, I'd appreciate it. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment to the amendment.

PRESIDENT: The amendment to the amendment is adopted. Now, Senator Chizek, we're back on your amendment.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Mr. President and colleagues, this is a compromise amendment between pharmacies and the carriers that many of you have heard about. And, basically, it provides that any program provider that is administered by the State of Nebraska that includes payments to pharmacies, that notice must be provided of change and allow 60 days for those pharmacies to either accept or reject becoming a contracted provider. And, under state procedure, all changes as far as regulations, etcetera, must go through a public hearing anyway and also it allows the administrator discretion on paying, as I had mentioned earlier, on the "may" to the "shall"... "shall" to the "may". And I would ask for your adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members, I...this amends an area of law that I was involved in about six or seven years ago. What we set up was the authority for the Department of Social Services to contract with providers under the Medicaid program in an attempt to save money. By contracting, you provide volume and by providing volume you can have lower costs. And so we have tried to allow for that authority. It hasn't really been pursued to the degree that I would like to have seen but it was looked at and is being considered again, especially in the area of pharmacy benefits. The amendment that was adopted makes this amendment itself, in my estimation, pretty

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