

May 24, 1989

LB 429
LR 225

my mind and I know that all of you understand my position relative to the new medical school building, which I think is going to increase the health care cost, it must do so; my position on LB 429, which I believe will increase health care cost; my deep concern about the vacation policy, for example, and the sick leave policy for state employees, which encourages us to take advantage of the health insurance program we have. It is no accident that private industry has a much lower utilization rate of health care facilities than those of us who are in government. You go to work for a private company, you don't show up enough days in a row, somebody has got your job for one reason or another. Now I have defended hundreds of time, if not thousands of times, the multitude of loyal, hardworking state employees which we have, and I will continue to do that, but there are always those other factors in the private sector and in the public sector which drive up the cost of health care, and in plain ordinary language, it is easier to get rid of those kind of employees in the private sector than it is in the public sector. So as a result of that, we have increased health care costs. There are some facts here which the Appropriations Committee has spelled out for you, which I think they have done an admirable job on, and I would encourage you to take a look at those facts. How you vote on the resolution is of your own concern, but I think it is one of those situations where you really must look at the long-term interest of the state and vote accordingly. On the other hand, as I said earlier, at this point is a poor time to begin to concern ourselves with the cost of health care. The time to concern ourselves with cost of health care is when we do all of those things, and take all of those actions, and cast all of those votes, which give a green light, an absolute green light, to increased cost of health care. The insurance industry, it is not a secret, ladies and gentlemen, and we all know that, the time will come, health care costs continue to escalate, and those of us in public office refuse to do those things that we can do, limited as they are, which will help to hold down the cost of health care, we will soon see the time when there will be no ordinary private insurance groups as we know them today. There will only be a...

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Please, let's hold it down. We are having trouble hearing the speaker. Please. Thank you, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...there will only be some system of national