

who are helped and, again, it's similar to the issue that we voted on just prior to breaking for lunch where it...there is impact every corner of the state with regard to this program, and I think that probably the impact is even greater when you break it down to the rural parts of the state because the vast majority of the population is aging and aging at an ever-faster rate. So I think that I would first commend Senator Smith for bringing the amendment and, secondly, the motion to override the veto. I would urge the body's support of this motion.

PRESIDENT: Senator Labeledz, please.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I also rise to support Senator Smith's override veto on LB 813 for the aging. When I came in this morning, I mentioned my number one priority was the textbooks. My number two priority is the elderly. I don't know why I put them in that form, but I always have supported children first, the elderly second, and any bill, any money that involves the human beings then I will be standing up here and supporting because I believe that we should think of them first before we think of anything else. And I commend Senator Smith. I did go up to her and ask her this morning if she had put in the request for an override because, had she not done that, I would have. So I strongly support Senator Smith in her override motion.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Smith, would you like to close on your motion, please?

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to those who stood to support me in this effort and I hope that we're going to see a lot of votes. If I can get 30 that will make me the happiest person in the world today anyway. I guess that something that I don't need to remind all of us about is the fact that we are all ourselves going to become elderly some day. That's something that no one escapes. And Nebraska, being eighth in the nation, as far as number of elderly population in comparison to its total population, gives us something to think about. We know too that in the end it's going to cost taxpayers dollars. We recognize that. But in the end we will be saving taxpayers dollars if we can keep these people in their homes at a much lower cost, provided only needed services to them, and of course making them a viable part of the community so that their dollars remain in the community also. And that is a part of the economic concern that we have for the communities in our state.