

May 24, 1989

LB 429, 813

PRESIDENT: Motion fails. Next one, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move that Agency 20, Health Care Cost Index, become law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I want to express my appreciation. A few days ago law week after we discussed LB 429, the Certificate of Need law, and we discussed the health insurance issue and we discussed a number of items related to health care costs, we also sat down and Senator Baack and I discussed how can we get a handle on this problem of health care costs. I have passed out for you some more figures. You're already aware of how big an increase we've had to expend in health care costs over this budget period. Right now, we're spending 2 billion a year on health care in Nebraska and our budget is over 300 million for Medicaid, of which we spend a little over \$100 million, well, a little over is 110 million and then next year 121 million dollars. We're seeing increases in the range of 38 percent, you know, 30 to 40 percent a year on premiums. We're having a run on the budget based on the health care cost increases we've had. This is an amendment we adopted to ask for \$36,000. That's all, \$36,000 to begin to look at what information we might have to get a handle on this problem, health care costs, where are they are? Where are they going? Why are they going up? Answering questions like that, cooperating with our employers, cooperating with our insurers, cooperating with our providers. There's no mandate here, no information that would have to be provided, but in a cooperative sense try to start down the road of getting some information on this very important issue. I would hope that you'd be willing to support this, considering how much we spend on health care and how much more we're spending on health care this year. This is the one attempt that we would have to try and get a handle on the problem and do something about it. Without the information, I don't know how we'll develop the policies or begin to address this issue. Until we get that information, we can't even start down the road of addressing this very important issue. So, with that, I would ask your support for this override. It's a very small amount of money and it would do a great deal to help us with a very important and costly issue. I would ask for the adoption of this override motion.