

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, I have no intent to stall 187. As I said, I think it's been pretty evident why I don't like the bill. But today is not the day to fight that battle, and I'll save my fire power for another day. But a couple things I do want to mention about the body, and Senator Korshoj spurned it. There is two reasons I don't like the bill. The first reason is that, and Senator Lynch has addressed this pretty accurately, obviously, but my concern is that primarily the activity in this area, if you go on past activity, going back to '87, something like 80 percent of the money in this bill would go to Douglas County, because that is where the activity was at that point in time. And that's the one reason I was bothered by the counties last year selling this bill as a property tax relief measure, when primarily the money would be going to Douglas County. And the old argument that if you really want property tax relief, it don't happen that way, because you never get credit for it. If you want property tax relief, deal with it in a property tax relief bill. But Senator Lynch says regardless of that, it's still something that is a policy decision maybe you should do. But the second problem is that, you know, you can't open up Pandora's box. What Senator Lynch says is correct, the rural hospitals will, in all likelihood, take advantage of this bill once it gets up and going. I mean they probably will, you know, to put it in laymen's terms, the Douglas County hospitals have done a good job of applying for this, the rural hospitals, for a variety of reasons, won't. Maybe when the bill is up and going and the state is paying for it and it's state dollars then, my guess is that a lot of hospitals throughout the state will become more active in trying to get these funds. That creates a second problem on the price tag. There was a study done in 1987, that estimated the problem of indigent care, not at 7 million, not at 12 million, but between 40 and 45 million dollars. That's what the real amount that the hospitals theoretically were eating in the State of Nebraska. That was a few years ago. We all know what health care costs have done. My concern with this bill is, given the history of items like the state Medicaid takeover, what is a 7 and 12 million dollar expenditure today will be much like state Medicaid takeover, which was in the teens at one time, now it's 55 million dollars. This bill, within five years, is going to be costing the state a lot more money than 7 or 12 million dollars. We don't need to talk about this much today. I think Senator Lynch's amendment I guess in my opinion makes a bad bill a little better. I have no problem with it. But you'll be hearing more from me when we vote on Final