

Reading, and I hope the body will take a good, hard look before they advance this bill on over to the Governor's desk.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Further discussion on the amendment. Senator Scofield, please.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. President and members, I have assured the interested parties on this bill today that unlike last year I'm not going to stall this bill at this point. And I will continue to work with Senator Lynch on trying to get us some place that solves the very important problem of reimbursing hospitals out there. But Senator Korshoj raises a question about where is all this money going to be distributed. And until I have a chance to really look again at the distribution formula, Senator Lynch's answer of, no, not all the money goes to Omaha, is in fact correct. But I wonder if perhaps the correct answer isn't well most of it might. And that continues to concern me, obviously, given the part of the state that I represent and the failing condition of many of our small hospitals out there. The second concern that I have about this bill continues to be that of the price tag. And while we need to put the help out there, I want to put you on...just to indicate to you again, Senator Lynch, that I'm interested in once again looking at the price tag of this bill because I'm not so sure that it isn't still too high, given what our history has been of what we're picking up. And I know some of my hospitals out there have devised some fairly ingenious ways of dealing with indigent health care. And so I offer my willingness to continue to help solve this important problem of hospital costs, but I have to go on record today as that I still have some skepticism about the cost of the bill as currently...even as it's been reduced and the distribution formulas. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion on the amendment? Seeing none, Senator Lynch, would you care to close?

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes, sir, Mr. President, members. It's a little scary when two members of the Appropriations Committee show some concern, but just so we all understand. Those of us in Omaha and Lincoln didn't raise too much fuss when the community college budget was discussed, and the increase and all of it went to greater Nebraska. Put in any case we understand the difference, though, we really do. And I think we have to understand that where indigent care is provided that's probably where the funds will go. But I also want you to understand that