

from my county board and, naturally, they would like to have us pick up any dollars whatsoever that they might be obligated to pay. So I have a lot of fears on this one.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lynch, followed by Senators Wesely and Labeledz.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Speaker and members, it's probably that good we do revisit the history for a moment here. As you will remember, LB 187 or something like it has been around for a number of years. Last year LB 187 did proceed to Final Reading very quickly. In the process of that, though, the Appropriations Committee also found another way which, in fact, was better I would admit and I supported LB 525 for that reason. LB 525, rather than developing \$12 million about 4.7 for docs and the rest for hospitals, provided a match with federal funds by revising the reimbursement for doctors and hospitals through the Medicaid program and it made very much sense. It, for example, rather than spending \$12 million in total, provided that if we came up with \$2.5 million for docs and \$2.6 million for hospitals or 4.8 million rather than 12, with the match we would ultimately wind up with the same number, \$12 million to reimburse hospitals and doctors. LB 525 was also good, probably the most important aspect was that they redesigned and defined the reimbursement procedure so that family doctors and doctors, especially those practicing in the rural areas of the state outside of Lincoln and Omaha, were reimbursed more fairly than, and in fact, some specialists whose fees were actually cut back. I supported that. I moved that we bracket 187 because I knew very well that this body and the Governor could not support a \$24 million medical package. I thought that was fair and reasonable. Well, when it went to...when 525 was considered the hospital side was vetoed out. So the hospital costs, as provided in 525, have not been met and that's the reason I'm back today with this legislation because that unmet need still exists out there and it makes very little difference if you live in Douglas County or in any other county. Whatever your county budgeted for is an absolute unknown. For an example, an indigent who is a serious drug user or abuser with AIDS, for example, that isn't even the worst scenario, but it could be one, could visit your county jail sometime and get sick. That county board probably didn't budget 65 to \$135,000 to care for that person until they die, but they would have to pay for it and do any of you think that is a proper use of property tax dollars? I don't think so. How do you budgeted for that if