

higher poverty limits, in case you associate this bill with Douglas County and, in fact, 17 counties with lower percentages of poverty level folks. I also would like to remind you that there are two hospitals in the Omaha-Lincoln areas that provide about 90 percent of this kind of care, in outstate about 75 percent of the hospitals provide 90 percent of the care in those areas. I would just also like to remind you, because I don't want to talk any more than necessary on this, it's an issue we've discussed many times, to remind you how important it is. If you go by Lutheran Hospital which recently closed, there is a sign on the door and it says, For Emergencies Go To Creighton, St. Joe Hospital. They are accepting all the poor folks, all of the people who fall through the cracks, those that aren't eligible for Medicare and Medicaid, those that don't have enough income to get into a CHIPS program and, in fact, the eligibility criteria, if anything, is too...is too restrictive. But, nevertheless, it's a beginning. It helps us, I think, understand the priorities that we should use when we spend property tax dollars. In any case, they should never be used to try to pay for health care costs. It also creates, as far as I'm concerned, very good policy for the state and I think it's the kind of legislation that does deserve your attention. And if we don't do it now, when? Now is as good a time, in fact, even a better time than any to consider this important legislation. So I would simply ask for your support to override the veto on 187.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Warner, please, followed by Senator Langford.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this is another large spending item. It was pointed out, not this year, but it's long-term impact is significant. If this is overridden and 1059 is overridden, there's still a million eight left this year, so there's no problem as far as the 3 percent reserve is concerned. But, at the cost and with the projections and the assumptions, rather, that are used for the following fiscal year, whether LB 1059 is overridden or not, based on the assumptions we would be running a deficit of somewhere between 12 and \$20 million. One of the concerns I have had all along on some of this legislation as we expand what, in effect, is entitlement programs, because if they're being enacted, they ought to be funded. But if we're going to have nearly half, 40 to 50 percent of our budget, state General Fund budget, increasing at a rate faster than the average growth in receipts