

attorneys do not believe that our current state laws allow them to deal with medical support. So the department's asking that the word medical be added to our support laws in order to clearly allow the county attorneys to deal with it. And because we're not now establishing and enforcing health insurance, Nebraska failed an audit, conducted last year by the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement. To properly work in this area we do need two things--to clearly provide statutory authority for county attorneys to rely on, and to staff the Department of Social Services to go through current support orders, find those without health insurance and refer those to the county attorneys. But we understand that this year, with the budgetary constraints, the chances of increasing staffing to establish medical support will be virtually impossible. And therefore, after consulting with DSS and the fiscal office, I am offering this amendment which puts into statute that DSS may make referrals to the county attorneys. And with this amendment then, if it's attached to LB 457, it would cost about \$3,000. There is no guarantee that Nebraska will pass its next audit without additional staffing. However, our chances are better with the addition of the word medical to our statutes. At least with that, in the cases the county attorneys are already working on, they can request health insurance be considered by the court. And this amendment would put some discretion in our statutes to allow DSS to make the number of referrals it can with existing staff. And that's why I'm making it very clear, we're adding no staff, we're removing the requirement for staff by using the word may, and that's what this amendment does. I ask for your support in attaching the amendment to 1178. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Smith. You've heard closing. We will now vote on the motion to adopt the amendment to the amendment. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 23 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on adoption of Senator Smith's amendment to the Smith amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The amendment to the amendment is adopted. Is there anyone who wishes now to speak on the Smith amendment? Okay. Senator Schmit. Let's see, Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. I think I got it right that time. I do wish to speak in support of the