

strong support of LB 256 and am proud to be one of the co-sponsors. Many of you that were here last year recall that I was, at the beginning of the session, was absent for quite a few days because of the fact that my daughter-in-law had breast cancer and also a bone marrow transplant as it'd spread to the bones. And I am very, very supportive of middle-age and older Nebraskans, as Senator Wesely mentioned, but, Senator Wesely, there are also very young people that have come up with breast cancer. I recall at the Med Center when I was with my daughter-in-law, I was shocked and amazed at the young people that were there from all over the country that have come to the Med Center because of their experience with bone marrow transplants that was caused by breast cancer, how young they were. And I think at the time there was eight or nine patients, and out of the eight or nine, there was only one or two, at the most, that were older. Most of them were young women that had very young children, and my daughter-in-law had a 3-year old and a 6-year old. Fortunately, she is doing well now but only because it was early detection and she got there as soon as she felt that she needed treatment or recognized the fact that there may be a possibility of breast cancer. So I strongly support LB 256 and hope that the members of this body will do so also because it is something this state desperately needs, especially if you see the pain and the sorrow that is suffered in any family when you watch a treatment that goes on possibly for almost a year. So I urge you to consider LB 256 and let's get this done this year. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Labeledz. Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Madam President and members of the body, I rise in very strong support of LB 256, and I commend Senator Schimek for her persistence in addressing this issue, and her willingness, albeit reluctant, to take out some of the features of the bill that would have been very costly. I wish that we could afford to fully fund it in its original form. Many of us come before this body and claim that the activity that we are trying to accomplish through a piece of legislation is a great investment in the future. I can't think of another topic that is better documented with facts as have been shared with us by Senator Schimek this morning. There is no doubt that we have a high incidence of breast cancer, one in nine women are going to get it, and we also know that early detection can make a significant difference. Up to 91 percent of the women who have early detection through mammography tests have a five year