

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay, fine. Thanks a lot.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Before I proceed to the next speaker, I would like to introduce some guests of the Legislature. They are guests of Senator Chambers. There are 54 sixth graders from Western Hills in Omaha and their teachers. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. The next speaker is Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, I appreciate Senator Hall's quick reaction here and I guess we didn't include this in the package of proposals but it does fit in. And the idea of the other proposals, I think, were, obviously, all worked out in consensus measures. As introduced, this proposal had some difficulty but, as amended, as I recall, there is not opposition currently that I have heard of on the bill with the amendments. The original proposal would have been much broader and I think still had a lot of validity but, as amended, it seems to me that certainly there would be little argument that there should be a problem. There is a fiscal impact. There will be a need to amend the bill to increase the authorization of the use of Cash Funds to implement this proposal. And so if this is adopted, I will be offering that amendment. But, otherwise, I don't have any problem with the amendment and the bill and would support it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Anyone else wishing to address the amendment by Senator Hall? Seeing no one, Senator Hall, do you wish to close?

SENATOR HALL: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Very briefly, and I appreciate Senator Withem's comments and Senator Wesely's patience and his support as well. The issue here is there was an article that I didn't have time to circulate that was in the Lincoln Journal, excuse me, Lincoln Star on January 7th of this year and it deals with the issue of Nebraska's insurance department lacking in some areas that deal with this specific issue, that in no way says that the insurance department does not do a good job. I think they do a very good job with the resources that they currently have. One of the problems we have with the department is that they totally need to rebuild their computer system so that their data base has the ability to