

decisions in what their wishes were. Now that was a little better. That was a little better, but it still isn't as good as being able to tell your clients with some certitude that if they sign a document and they express their wishes, that their wishes will be followed. And I think that people are entitled to that, and more and more, more and more, I have clients coming to me and specifically asking for that kind of empowerment, if you will, that kind of an ability to express their wishes and to have their wishes honored by the legal system and by the State of Nebraska. They are entitled to that and I will support this legislation.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Wesely, you are next.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, I thought Senator Lindsay has presented an excellent argument why, perhaps, durable power of attorney's option is a preferable one to the living will issue. I also think that Senator Landis has done a great job of explaining the living will concept and why that option ought to be made available to people. In the end, what I come down to is the point that the choice ought to be made by the individual, that if they choose that a living will is what they feel comfortable with, if that is the choice they want to pursue, ought we stand in the way of that option for people to have the sanction of law behind it. In addition, the durable power of attorney bill has gained a great deal of support from a broad spectrum of groups and is a concept that is somewhat new to Nebraska. It is not a concept new, obviously, in the general sense, but in the area of health care, we have only had that bill before us last session and this. So really for the last year, it is the first that I have had the chance to look at it to any great extent. And I am very much attracted to it and proud to cosponsor the bill with Senator Lindsay to have that concept adopted. And I think as other people have more familiarity with the durable power of attorney bills, they will perhaps see, as Senator Lindsay does, the advantages of it, but I keep coming back to the question, again, is letting people have the choice to make for themselves, and I come at it from a broader perspective of the whole area of health care and the cost of health care. We are in a crisis right now in this country heading toward devastation financially if we don't come to some grips with the question of health care. Senator Kerrey, at the national level, is working hard on that issue. Several of us in the Nebraska Legislature are, likewise, working hard to