

February 12, 1992 LB 428

to try to work this out. And rather than me try to explain it, I'll let Senator Byars do that. Thank you.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Senator Byars, on the committee amendments.

**SENATOR BYARS:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker and Senator Schellpeper. To try to background you a little bit on the legislation as it was presented to us and the form that it now takes, let me tell you that when it first, when LB 428 first came to the Health and Human Services Committee there was a tremendous amount of conflict over this bill in the way the utilization review services were provided in the State of Nebraska. There were tremendous consumer complaints. There was a good deal of disagreement on the part of health care providers, and those people who primarily are the major insurance companies providing primarily HMOs in the State of Nebraska. After we heard this in Health Committee, we knew, obviously, that a problem existed that needed to be addressed. Senator Wesely, at that point, asked me to chair a task force to try to bring all of the interested parties together to see if we could come to some form of consensus in the form of amendments to the bill, that would be palatable to all parties, and that would give protection to the consumers in the State of Nebraska. We were able to do this, and it was not without a good deal of meetings, a lot of energy expended, a give and take on the part of all parties involved. But I'm very happy to say that the results, the committee amendments that we're putting forth today are very much in the interest of the people of the State of Nebraska. What LB 428 does now is to establish that in the State of Nebraska the national standards for medical reviews will apply. And that's to apply to the review of certain medical conditions, or medical claims of people that live in this state. The Department of Insurance has given complete enforcement over these standards. And because of this, because we're adopting the national standards, and obviously the national system, the high cost of state regulation is avoided. I have had a handout given to all of you which gives a copy of the committee amendments, as well as the current national standards that are referenced in LB 428 and the committee amendments. And I hope that you've had an opportunity to go over those. If not, I'm going to briefly spend a little time going over those for you. This is obviously one of those bills that can be extremely technical. There are a lot of T's to cross, and I's to dot. But I don't want you to get lost in those, but to look at what actually is set forth as far as the