

that they can serve our rural areas. But there is some dollars spent by the people that use this because if they are transported out of Ord, there is a bill, and the only, at least in my locality, the only person that does receive compensation is the driver. At least it has been that way in Ord for many years. I was on the county board for years. That is usually a businessman that takes upon his responsibility a call any time of the day or the night, he does drive. I don't know the exact dollars but he does get paid, but he is the only one that does get paid. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Rogers. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. I rise to support the amendments with a couple of caveats. And I am a little bit surprised at Senator Robinson's remarks. Unless I misread the fiscal note in some substantial way, it doesn't have anything to do with the cost of delivery of services on the ground. What we are talking about is a fiscal note that applies to the regulation and the monitoring of the system that we are going to put in place to deliver health care services. I have no idea on earth how we would ever charge the individuals who use the services that are provided for our state costs in regulating and monitoring the system. We don't do that in any other area that I am aware of. We don't charge a state...we don't charge a state fee, for example, when you are in the hospital, even though we regulate hospitals. We don't charge a fee when you go to see your doctor, although we regulate doctors. I don't see how we could ever do that. And I am not at all concerned about the cost of this bill. In fact, I think we ought to be spending more money on it if I had my way about it because these emergency medical services are becoming an increasingly important component of the delivery of health care services in rural Nebraska, whether we like it or not. I do have some reservations about the amendments as submitted, specifically the provision which mandates that the Department of Health shall establish minimum standards for emergency medical technicians-AM and protocols for recertification, and minimum standards for equipment and procedures, including a minimum standard for infection control, patient care, and record keeping. My concern is not that we would have regulations, and not that regulations aren't appropriate, and that the Department of Health is not the appropriate place for those regulations to be promulgated. My concern is that those regulations be promulgated having a clear view of the practical impact of the