

vaccine for about half the cost by buying in bulk from the Center for Disease Control. And that cost-savings can be passed on directly to health consumers in the State of Nebraska. For these and many other reasons, this legislation was introduced. The committee amendments deal with reducing the cost of the bill. The original cost of the bill as introduced was somewhere in the range of \$2 million. Obviously with our fiscal condition that was a concern. The committee amendments would reduce to those counties that do not have a public vaccination clinic, the application of the bill, but Senator Bohlke and I have been working with the Academy of Family Physicians and Department of Health and Academy of Pediatricians to try and work out further refinement to the bill and that would be what the amendment is that's being offered to the committee amendments. With that, I'd defer to the amendment to the committee amendment and suggest that Senator Bohlke should introduce that amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Are you ready for your amendment now?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.

SPEAKER BAACK: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move to amend. The amendment may be found on page 1777 of the Journal.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Again, all I'm going to begin with is saying that Senator Bohlke and I met with the Department of Health and the Academy of Family Physicians to work out this compromise amendment. I defer to Senator Bohlke to explain it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, as Senator Wesely has already discussed, there is a serious health risk in this country with children who have not been immunized. Retrospective surveys in Nebraska indicate that approximately 40 percent of our children are not adequately protected at 24 months of age. While there is some variance among urban versus rural children, the difference is not significant. We simply have not done a good job of immunizing our kids. Reasons stated for those low coverage levels have been many and the changes needed to improve them have been elusive. At this time, there