

Select File. Also, there may be other issues that we'll look at as well that we need to address; and nobody can guarantee what may come down the road. But clearly the investment in vaccinations is money well spent. Different studies have indicated for every dollar spent on vaccination there's a \$10 benefit. Heading off disease, heading off childhood disabilities is certainly a wise investment in our health care system. As many of you know, as I've said time and again, we spend over \$4 billion on health care in this state. And our various studies of the health care system we have found certain investments by the state to be the very best to be made, the highest return on investment. And I think we need to talk in human terms about the impact on lives. But if that doesn't appeal to you, talking on economic terms, this money on this program is well worth it in every fashion that you can imagine. As I said, 98 percent of the kids are vaccinated when they're in school because they're required to in order to enter our school system. But only about 60 percent of our kids prior to school age are covered. And one of the things I want to note in addition to the establishment under this amendment of this program to set a plan and to allow for the potential seeking of federal funds, there's also private funds available through different foundations. But there is also a clean-up language that deals with a section of law passed in 1987 that has had difficulty being implemented since that time with our childhood programs and childcare centers because in the past we've required that those children in those situations be vaccinated in order to stop the spread of disease within those settings. But the Health Department hasn't had the clarity of language they need to carry that out. And so included in this on page 1781 and 1782 are clarification language to deal with that and it ties in specifically with this problem of vaccine and immunization and so it's included as part of this amendment. I'm just, again, I'd ask support of this amendment. It reduces the fiscal impact dramatically. It may even wipe it out depending on certain circumstances, and I think would have a very major impact in the lives of children across the State of Nebraska. So I would again ask support for the amendment to the committee amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Rasmussen, you're next.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to just simply address the amendment and remind Senator Robinson this is