

well as sending the records in to the Department of Health to make sure that this is going on. The other thing I might add is that in Section 4 it talks about some of the things the public health department, the Department of Health would do and to try and get that information out to people about getting vaccinations done. I think one of the major problems is that the cost of vaccinations have skyrocketed. In 1980, the cost of the serum, just the vaccination serum for a DTP was 19 cents per dose. Nine years later, in 1989, it was \$15 per dose. So the problem is the cost of the serum, itself, has skyrocketed in part due to liability issues, but the fact of the matter is in order to get all your vaccinations done by the time they are age 5 is running about \$500 for a family. So those people who might not be eligible through a clinic are putting off getting these vaccinations done because they have become so costly. So this is an opportunity for us to take some advantage of federal dollars to begin to push the fact that those vaccinations need to be done earlier, to do it through the fact that the kids are in preschool and childcare programs, as well as to do some public information about the importance of getting children vaccinated early. I also wanted to respond, you asked about the question in terms of whether or not doctors could do this. That is I think one of the beauty of the bills is that it is not saying that it all must be done through a clinic format. It doesn't preclude clinic, establishing more clinics throughout the state, we certainly need to do that, but it encourages well-baby care through a private physician by saying, physicians, you can get these serums from the state; the state will purchase the serum. All you need to charge then is an overhead and I believe...I know the original bill anyway capped that around 5 or 6 dollars, that they couldn't charge any more than that for an office call. So that we are really trying to get at the issue of people putting off getting vaccinations because they can't afford it. In light of the fact that the incidence of poverty has dramatically increased in the children in the State of Nebraska, almost 20 percent of our children are living in poverty, in light of the fact that most insurance policies do not cover well-baby care, and in light of the fact of the dramatic increase in the cost of the serum, I think this is a most timely bill for us to pass. Thank you.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. Senator Wesely, you are next.

SENATOR WESELY: Just real briefly, again, it now costs