

this idea of a moratorium in this proposal from Senator Hall on tax exemptions have all had a positive impact in the overall movement toward health care reform. With that, I would again oppose the bracket motion and hope that I could keep my promise to the Speaker and take amendments off and move forward with the bill so we can deal with it. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and members, I, too, oppose the bracket motion and want to really speak just real briefly on the amendment. I would hazard a guess that most of you, if you ask your constituents what is one of the most critical things facing Nebraskans, it would be cost of health care. Senator Schmit made a very, very good speech, I felt, I'm not going to try to really expand on a lot of what he said. Many of you know the statistics better than I of what health care costs are. But I simply think we need to consider this if you really want to look at what all Nebraska citizens probably would consider important at this point in time and this day about what we really should be taking up. I support this amendment and would oppose the bracket on that basis, simply because I think this is one of the most crucial things we possibly could do as it affects all Nebraska citizens, not to say that your individual issues aren't important and that you don't want to get to them. But I think this does truly affect all Nebraska citizens in a way that they really understand. I...Senator Wesely made some comments about having been...worked with the various hospitals, that we did have a meeting, Appropriations, Health and Human Services and the Governor's staff here a while back, perhaps two or three weeks ago that was covered in the press, about our concerns. I think this is an appropriate amendment. I don't really see or...see why we need really to perhaps take a lot of time on it. I would hazard a guess the votes may be here. Maybe I'm wrong. So I admit we shouldn't take a lot of time on it if that be the case. But I think this is something that's so important that we should be looking at it, however briefly. And, with that, I would conclude. But I oppose the bracket. I think we really should take this amendment up. If I have any time left, I will give it to Senator Nelson.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: I truly appreciate that. I feel bad about this. People have worked on these for months and months and